

PCT COOPERATION TREATY

PCT

NOTIFICATION OF ELECTION

(PCT Rule 61.2)

From the INTERNATIONAL BUREAU

To:

Commissioner
 US Department of Commerce
 United States Patent and Trademark
 Office, PCT
 2011 South Clark Place Room
 CP2/5C24
 Arlington, VA 22202
 ETATS-UNIS D'AMERIQUE
 in its capacity as elected Office

Date of mailing (day/month/year) 07 May 2001 (07.05.01)	
International application No. PCT/NZ00/00170	Applicant's or agent's file reference 41267/20X111
International filing date (day/month/year) 30 August 2000 (30.08.00)	Priority date (day/month/year) 30 August 1999 (30.08.99)
Applicant MILLER, Stuart, Earl, Crispin	

1. The designated Office is hereby notified of its election made:

☒ in the demand filed with the International Preliminary Examining Authority on:
 29 March 2001 (29.03.01)

☐ in a notice effecting later election filed with the International Bureau on:

2. The election ☒ was
☐ was not

made before the expiration of 19 months from the priority date or, where Rule 32 applies, within the time limit under Rule 32.2(b).

The International Bureau of WIPO 34, chemin des Colombettes 1211 Geneva 20, Switzerland Facsimile No.: (41-22) 740.14.35	Authorized officer Céline Faust Telephone No.: (41-22) 338.83.38
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INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT

(PCT Article 36 and Rule 70)

Applicant's or agent's file reference 41267/24 jm	FOR FURTHER ACTION	See Notification of Transmittal of International Preliminary Examination Report (Form PCT/IPEA/416).
International application No. PCT/NZ 00/00170	International filing date (day/month/year) 30 August 2000	Priority Date (day/month/year) 30 August 1999
International Patent Classification (IPC) or national classification and IPC Int. Cl.⁷ A47K 13/10, 13/28, A61G 5/00, 5/04		
Applicant MILLER Stuart Earl Crispin		

1. This international preliminary examination report has been prepared by this International Preliminary Examining Authority and is transmitted to the applicant according to Article 36.

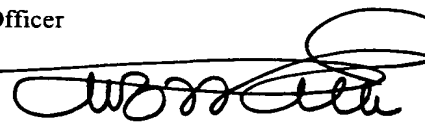
2. This REPORT consists of a total of **6** sheets, including this cover sheet.

☒ This report is also accompanied by ANNEXES, i.e., sheets of the description, claims and/or drawings which have been amended and are the basis for this report and/or sheets containing rectifications made before this Authority (see Rule 70.16 and Section 607 of the Administrative Instructions under the PCT).

These annexes consist of a total of **5** sheet(s).

3. This report contains indications relating to the following items:

- | | | |
|------|-------------------------------------|---|
| I | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Basis of the report |
| II | <input type="checkbox"/> | Priority |
| III | <input type="checkbox"/> | Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability |
| IV | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Lack of unity of invention |
| V | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement |
| VI | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Certain documents cited |
| VII | <input type="checkbox"/> | Certain defects in the international application |
| VIII | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Certain observations on the international application |

Date of submission of the demand 29 March 2001	Date of completion of the report 04 September 2001
Name and mailing address of the IPEA/AU AUSTRALIAN PATENT OFFICE PO BOX 200 WODEN ACT 2606 AUSTRALIA E-mail address: pct@ipaaustralia.gov.au Facsimile No. (02) 6285 3929	Authorized Officer  G.B. NATH Telephone No. (02) 6283 2126

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I. Basis of the report

1. With regard to the elements of the international application:*
- ☐ the international application as originally filed.
- ☒ the description, pages 1-14, as originally filed,
pages , filed with the demand,
pages , received on with the letter of .
- ☒ the claims, pages , as originally filed,
pages , as amended (together with any statement) under Article 19,
pages , filed with the demand,
pages 15-19, received on 16 August 2001 with the letter of 15 August 2001.
- ☒ the drawings, pages 1/22-22/22, as originally filed,
pages , filed with the demand,
pages , received on with the letter of .
- ☐ the sequence listing part of the description:
pages , as originally filed
pages , filed with the demand
pages , received on with the letter of .
2. With regard to the language, all the elements marked above were available or furnished to this Authority in the language in which the international application was filed, unless otherwise indicated under this item.
These elements were available or furnished to this Authority in the following language which is:
- ☐ the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of international search (under Rule 23.1(b)).
- ☐ the language of publication of the international application (under Rule 48.3(b)).
- ☐ the language of the translation furnished for the purposes of international preliminary examination (under Rules 55.2 and/or 55.3).
3. With regard to any nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence disclosed in the international application, the international preliminary examination was carried out on the basis of the sequence listing:
- ☐ contained in the international application in written form.
- ☐ filed together with the international application in computer readable form.
- ☐ furnished subsequently to this Authority in written form.
- ☐ furnished subsequently to this Authority in computer readable form.
- ☐ The statement that the subsequently furnished written sequence listing does not go beyond the disclosure in the international application as filed has been furnished.
- ☐ The statement that the information recorded in computer readable form is identical to the written sequence listing has been furnished
4. ☐ The amendments have resulted in the cancellation of:
- ☐ the description, pages
- ☐ the claims, Nos.
- ☐ the drawings, sheets/fig
5. ☐ This report has been established as if (some of) the amendments had not been made, since they have been considered to go beyond the disclosure as filed, as indicated in the Supplemental Box (Rule 70.2(c)).**

* Replacement sheets which have been furnished to the receiving Office in response to an invitation under Article 14 are referred to in this report as "originally filed" and are not annexed to this report since they do not contain amendments (Rules 70.16 and 70.17).

** Any replacement sheet containing such amendments must be referred to under item 1 and annexed to this report

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IV. Lack of unity of invention

1. In response to the invitation to restrict or pay additional fees the applicant has:

- ☐ restricted the claims.
- ☐ paid additional fees.
- ☐ paid additional fees under protest.
- ☐ neither restricted nor paid additional fees.

2. ☒ This Authority found that the requirement of unity of invention is not complied with and chose, according to Rule 68.1, not to invite the applicant to restrict or pay additional fees.

3. This Authority considers that the requirement of unity of invention in accordance with Rules 13.1, 13.2 and 13.3 is

- ☐ complied with.
- ☒ not complied with for the following reasons:

The international application does not comply with the requirements of unity of invention because it does not relate to one invention or to a group of inventions so linked as to form a single inventive concept. In coming to this conclusion the International Searching Authority has found that there are two inventions:

1. Claim nos 1-23 are directed to an apparatus for raising and lowering a toilet seat and define various features of the height adjusting means therein. It is considered that the features of the height adjusting means comprise a "first technical feature".

2. Claims 25-30 are directed to a wheeled chair which includes (but not limited to) an apparatus as claimed in any of the claims 1-24 and define various features of the wheeled chair. These features of the wheeled chair is considered to comprise a "second technical feature".

Since the above mentioned group of claims do not share a common technical a "technical relationship" between the inventions as defined in PCT rule 13.2 does not exist. Accordingly the international application does not relate to one invention or to a single inventive concept.

4. Consequently, the following parts of the international application were the subject of international preliminary examination in establishing this report:

- ☒ all parts.
- ☐ the parts relating to claims Nos.

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V. Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement

1. Statement

Novelty (N)	Claims 1-30	YES
	Claims none	NO
Inventive step (IS)	Claims 1-30	YES
	Claims none	NO
Industrial applicability (IA)	Claims 1-30	YES
	Claims none	NO

2. Citations and explanations (Rule 70.7)

Documents:

D1: DE 4215448A (ROMMEL), 19 November 1992

D2: US 5063617A (WARD et al), 12 November 1991

D3: US 5592703A (JONES et al), 14 January 1997

D4: Patent Abstracts of Japan JP 09-084722A (TOTO LTD KOMURA SEISAKUSHO: KK) 31 March 1997

D5: US 5309583A (WHITE et al), 10 May 1994

2.1 Novelty and Inventive Step:

None of the documents D1-D5 discloses the following special features of the independent claim 1

- A support having clamps for securing to the toilet bowl and means to adjust the position of the clamps to accommodate toilet bowl rims of varying dimensions and
- A foot operated toilet seat lid opening lever

Thus claim 1 and the appended claims 2-30 are considered to be novel over the prior art documents. Further, it is not considered obvious to use clamps for fixing the apparatus as claimed in claim 1 to a toilet bowl. Toilet seats are not normally clamped to toilet bowls, and none of the citations describe a similar method of fixing, particularly including the means for adjusting the clamp positions as claimed. The invention as claimed has recognised problems associated with fixing elevating toilet seats and solved them in a novel manner. It has also solved problems with providing toilet seat lid opening mechanisms on elevating toilet seats in a manner not disclosed in the prior art. Thus claims 1-30 are also considered to involve an inventive step over the prior art.

2.2 All the claims 1-30 meet the criteria of industrial applicability.

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VI. Certain documents cited**1. Certain published documents (Rule 70.10)**

Application No. Patent No.	Publication date (day/month/year)	Filing date (day/month/year)	Priority date (valid claim) (day/month/year)
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Derwent Abstract
Accession No. 2000-
057468/05 Class P33: S05
JP 11-313857A (WAKO
GIKEN KK)

16 November 1999

06 May 1998

Derwent Abstract
Accession No. 2000-
518915/47, Class P33;
S05, JP2000197668A
(MATSUSHITA
ELECTRIC WORKS
LTD)

18 July 2000

26 October 1998

2. Non-written disclosures (Rule 70.9)

Kind of non-written disclosure	Date of non-written disclosure (day/month/year)	Date of written disclosure referring to non- written disclosure (day/month/year)
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VIII. Certain observations on the international application

The following observations on the clarity of the claims, description, and drawings or on the question whether the claims are fully supported by the description, are made:

Claim 2 lacks clarity in respect of the term "the hand lever a hand". Apparently, there is a missing word like "actuates" after "lever".

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CLAIMS:

1. An apparatus for raising and lowering a toilet seat with respect to a toilet bowl, the toilet seat having a hinged lid, the apparatus including:

5 a support for bearing upon a rim of the toilet bowl, the support having clamps for releasably securing the support to the toilet bowl, the support having means to adjust the position of the clamps both lengthwise and widthwise in the horizontal plane with respect to the rim in order to accommodate toilet bowl rims with varying dimensions;

10 guides connected between the support and the toilet seat for laterally restraining the seat and allowing it to be raised and lowered, the guides including means for supporting the toilet seat at two or more heights above the toilet bowl; and

a toilet seat lid opening mechanism having a foot lever pivotally connected to the lid for opening thereof, a lid opening detent biased to a holding position for holding the lid in a rotated attitude and a foot switch to release the detent, wherein the foot lever is slidably connected to a fixed section of a said guide.

15

2. An apparatus as claimed in claim 1 wherein the said toilet seat lid opening mechanism further includes a hand lever connected to the lid, the hand lever a hand switch to release the said lid opening detent.

- 20 3. An apparatus as claimed in either claim 1 or claim 2 wherein the means for supporting the toilet seat is power actuated.

4. An apparatus as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 3 wherein the said guide means includes a plurality of telescoping legs.

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5. An apparatus as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 5 wherein the said means for supporting the toilet seat comprises guide detent means associated with the said guide means.
- 5 6. An apparatus as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 5 wherein the means for supporting the toilet seat is fluid actuated.
7. An apparatus as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 6 wherein the seat is hingedly and releasably connected to the apparatus.
- 10 8. An apparatus as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 7 wherein said toilet bowl is selected from a fixed toilet bowl and a portable toilet pan.
- 15 9. An apparatus as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 8 wherein said toilet bowl is a portable toilet pan and the apparatus is incorporated into a chair.
- 20 10. An apparatus as claimed in any one of claims 5 to 9 wherein the guide means comprise telescoping legs, each leg having guide detent means, the apparatus including one or more levers operable to engage and disengage each guide detent means.
11. An apparatus as claimed in any one of claims 4 to 10 wherein the guide means comprises four or five telescoping legs.

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12. An apparatus as claimed in any one of the preceding claims wherein said seat further includes an insert releasably engageable with the said seat, the said insert being adapted to conform to the internal shape of the said bowl.
- 5 13. A height adjustable toilet seat as claimed in claim 12 wherein the said insert incorporates concertina sides.
- 10 14. An apparatus as claimed in claim 12 or 13 wherein the said insert is made from a material selected from the group: plastics, fibreglass, wood, metal, and a combination thereof.
- 15 15. An apparatus as claimed in any one of the preceding and made of a material selected from: steel, plastics, composite materials, aluminium alloys, wood, and a combination thereof.
16. An apparatus as claimed in any one of the preceding claims including toilet seat heating means.
17. An apparatus as claimed in claim 16 wherein the said heating means comprises a thermostatically controlled electrical resistance element.
- 20 18. An apparatus as claimed in claim 17 wherein the element is operated at extra low voltage being 12-32 Volts.
19. An apparatus as claimed in any one of the preceding claims wherein said seat further includes one or more of the following elements:
- one or two arm rests;

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a back rest; and

a protective skirt arranged about the telescoping legs.

5 20. An apparatus as claimed in claim 19 wherein each said arm rest and the back rest are collapsible.

10 21. An apparatus as claimed in either claim 19 or claim 20 wherein one or both arm rests further include one or more rollers operable when the arms are in a planar position with the seat.

22. An apparatus as claimed in any one of claims 19 to 21 wherein said skirt is injection moulded from a plastic.

15 23. An apparatus as claimed in any one of the preceding claims wherein said framework further includes means to adjust both the width and the length thereof.

20 24. An apparatus as claimed in claim 23 wherein said adjustment means for the width and length of the framework further includes pivotable flanged portions on each side of the insert.

25. An apparatus, as claimed in any one of the preceding claims fixed to a wheeled chair, said chair including a plurality of wheels arranged about and under the apparatus.

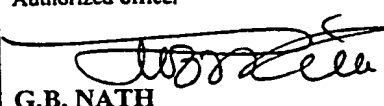
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26. An apparatus, as claimed in claim 25 wherein said chair further includes steering means to turn at lest one set of wheels.
27. An apparatus, as claimed in either claim 25 or claim 26 wherein said chair further includes means operable to apply a brake to one or more wheels.
28. An apparatus, as claimed in any one of claims 25 to 27 wherein said chair further includes power means and a motor operable by the user.
29. An apparatus, as claimed in claims 28 wherein said chair further includes clutch means permitting the disengagement of the motor.
30. An apparatus, as claimed in any one of claims 25 to 29 where said chair further includes one or two footrests.

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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.
PCT/NZ 00/00170

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER					
Int Cl ⁷ : A47K 13/10, 13/28 A61G 5/00, 5/04					
According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC					
B. FIELDS SEARCHED					
Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols) IPC: A47K 13/10, 13/28 A61G 5/00, 5/04					
Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched US class: 280/647					
Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practicable, search terms used) WPAT: IPC as above (A47K 13/10 or 13/28) + keywords (HEIGHT or RAISE or LOWER) WPAT: IPC as above (A61G 5/00 or 5/04) + keywords (TOILET) IFIPAT: US class 280/647					
C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT					
Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.			
X Y	DE 4215448 A (ROMMEL), 19 November 1992 Figures, see in particular figs 1 & 2	1-21 11, 22-27			
X Y	US 5063617 A (WARD et al), 12 November 1991 Figures	1-21 11, 22-27			
X Y	US 5592703A (JONES et al), 14 January 1997 Figures	1-21 11, 22-27			
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C <input type="checkbox"/> See patent family					
<table style="width: 100%; border: none;"> <tr> <td style="width: 33%; vertical-align: top;"> <p>* Special categories of cited documents:</p> <p>"A" Document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance</p> <p>"E" earlier application or patent but published on or after the international filing date</p> <p>"L" document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)</p> <p>"O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means</p> <p>"P" document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed</p> </td> <td style="width: 33%; vertical-align: top;"> <p>"T" later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention</p> <p>"X" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone</p> <p>"Y" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art</p> <p>"&" document member of the same patent family</p> </td> <td style="width: 33%;"></td> </tr> </table>			<p>* Special categories of cited documents:</p> <p>"A" Document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance</p> <p>"E" earlier application or patent but published on or after the international filing date</p> <p>"L" document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)</p> <p>"O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means</p> <p>"P" document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed</p>	<p>"T" later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention</p> <p>"X" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone</p> <p>"Y" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art</p> <p>"&" document member of the same patent family</p>	
<p>* Special categories of cited documents:</p> <p>"A" Document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance</p> <p>"E" earlier application or patent but published on or after the international filing date</p> <p>"L" document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)</p> <p>"O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means</p> <p>"P" document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed</p>	<p>"T" later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention</p> <p>"X" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone</p> <p>"Y" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art</p> <p>"&" document member of the same patent family</p>				
Date of the actual completion of the international search 15 January 2001		Date of mailing of the international search report 1 February 2001			
Name and mailing address of the ISA/AU AUSTRALIAN PATENT OFFICE PO BOX 200 WODEN ACT 2606 AUSTRALIA E-mail address: pct@ipaaustralia.gov.au Facsimile No.: (02) 6285 3929		Authorized officer  G.B. NATH Telephone No.: (02) 6283 2126			

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

PCT/NZ 00/00170

C (Continuation). DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X Y	Patent Abstracts of Japan, JP 09-084722A (TOTO LTD KOMURA SEISAKUSHO: KK) 31 March 1997 Abstract	1-21 11, 22-27
X Y	US 5309583 A (WHITE et al), 10 May 1994 Figures	1-21 11, 22-27
Y	Derwent Abstract Accession No 2000-017222/02, Class P33, JP11-290388A (MIKUNI KK), 26 October 1999 Abstract	22-27
P,Y	Derwent Abstract Accession NO 2000-057468/05 class P33; S05 JP 11-313857A (WAKO GIKEN KK), 16 November 1999 Abstract	22-27
P,Y	Derwent Abstract Accession No 2000-518915/47, Class P33; S05, JP 2000197668A (MATSUSHITA ELECTRIC WORKS LTD), 18 July 2000 Abstract	22-27
Y	Derwent Abstract Accession No 98-535257/46, Class P28 P33, JP 10234620A (SWAN SHOJI KK), 8 September 1998 Abstract	11

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International Application No.

PCT/NZ 00/00170

Box 1 Observations where certain claims were found unsearchable (Continuation of item 2 of first sheet)

This international search report has not been established in respect of certain claims under Article 17(2)(a) for the following reasons:

1. ☐ Claims Nos.:
because they relate to subject matter not required to be searched by this Authority, namely:
2. ☐ Claims Nos.:
because they relate to parts of the international application that do not comply with the prescribed requirements to such an extent that no meaningful international search can be carried out, specifically:
3. ☐ Claims Nos.:
because they are dependent claims and are not drafted in accordance with the second and third sentences of Rule 6.4(a)

Box II Observations where unity of invention is lacking (Continuation of item 3 of first sheet)

This International Searching Authority found multiple inventions in this international application, as follows:
The international application does not comply with the requirements of unity of invention because it does not relate to one invention or to a group of inventions so linked as to form a single general inventive concept. In coming to this conclusion the International Searching Authority has found that there are two inventions:

1. Claim nos 1-21 are directed to a height adjustable toilet seat apparatus and define various features of the height adjusting means therein. It is considered that the features of the height adjusting means comprise a "first technical feature"
2. Claims 22-27 are directed to a wheeled chair which includes (but not limited to) a height adjustable toilet seat apparatus as claimed in any of the claims 1-21 and define various features of the wheeled chair. These features of the wheeled chair is considered to comprise a "second technical feature".

Since the above mentioned group of claims do not share a common technical feature a "technical relationship" between the inventions as defined in PCT rule 13.2 does not exist. Accordingly the international application does not relate to one invention or to a single inventive concept

1. ☒ As all required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this international search report covers all searchable claims
2. ☐ As all searchable claims could be searched without effort justifying an additional fee, this Authority did not invite payment of any additional fee.
3. ☐ As only some of the required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this international search report covers only those claims for which fees were paid, specifically claims Nos.:
4. ☐ No required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant. Consequently, this international search report is restricted to the invention first mentioned in the claims; it is covered by claims Nos.:

Remark on Protest

- ☐ The additional search fees were accompanied by the applicant's protest.
☐ No protest accompanied the payment of additional search fees.

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Information on patent family members

International application No.

PCT/NZ 00/00170

This Annex lists the known "A" publication level patent family members relating to the patent documents cited in the above-mentioned international search report. The Australian Patent Office is in no way liable for these particulars which are merely given for the purpose of information.

Patent Document Cited in Search Report	Patent Family Member
NONE	
END OF ANNEX	

(19) World Intellectual Property Organization
International Bureau



(43) International Publication Date
8 March 2001 (08.03.2001)

PCT

(10) International Publication Number
WO 01/15588 A1

(51) International Patent Classification⁷: A47K 13/10,
13/28, A61G 5/00, 5/04

(21) International Application Number: PCT/NZ00/00170

(22) International Filing Date: 30 August 2000 (30.08.2000)

(25) Filing Language: English

(26) Publication Language: English

(30) Priority Data:
337475 30 August 1999 (30.08.1999) NZ

(71) Applicant and

(72) Inventor: MILLER, Stuart, Earl, Crispin [NZ/NZ]; 485
Manchester Street, Christchurch (NZ).

(74) Agents: LEWIS, Mardi, J. et al.; 29 Clarence Street, Pri-
vate Bag 3140, Hamilton 2001 (NZ).

(81) Designated States (national): AE, AG, AL, AM, AT, AU,
AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BY, BZ, CA, CH, CN, CR, CU, CZ,

DE, DK, DM, DZ, EE, ES, FI, GB, GE, GH, GM, HR,
HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KE, KG, KP, KR, KZ, LC, LK, LR,
LS, LT, LU, LV, MA, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, MZ,
NO, NZ, PL, PT, RO, RU, SD, SE, SG, SI, SK, SL, TJ, TM,
TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, US, UZ, VN, YU, ZA, ZW.

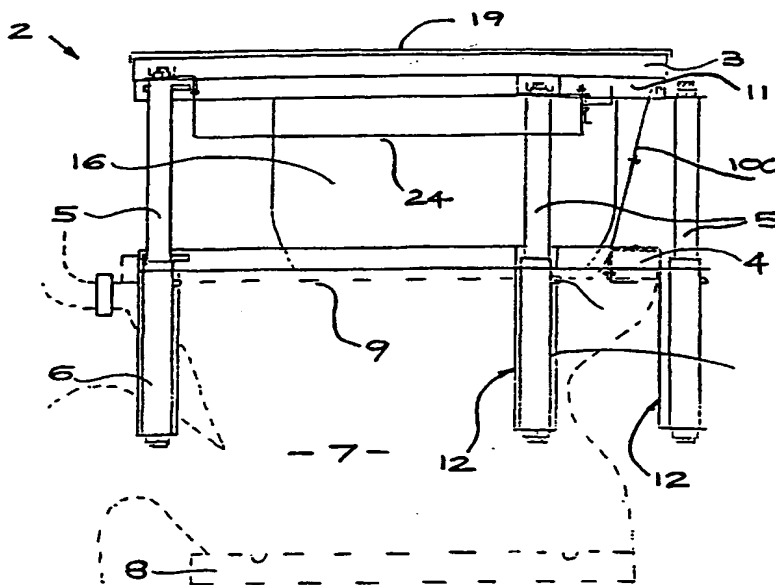
(84) Designated States (regional): ARIPO patent (GH, GM,
KE, LS, MW, MZ, SD, SL, SZ, TZ, UG, ZW), Eurasian
patent (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), European
patent (AT, BE, CH, CY, DE, DK, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, IE,
IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, SE), OAPI patent (BF, BJ, CF, CG,
CI, CM, GA, GN, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).

Published:

- With international search report.
- Before the expiration of the time limit for amending the
claims and to be republished in the event of receipt of
amendments.

For two-letter codes and other abbreviations, refer to the "Guid-
ance Notes on Codes and Abbreviations" appearing at the begin-
ning of each regular issue of the PCT Gazette.

(54) Title: ADJUSTABLE ELEVATING TOILET SEAT



(57) Abstract: A height adjustable toilet seat apparatus (2, 22, 42, 62, 82) includes a seat (3) and a framework (11) fitted about a toilet bowl (7). The framework (11) includes clamping means (4) for releasably securing the apparatus (2, 22, 42, 62, 82) to the toilet (7) and a frame for the seat (3). The framework (11) includes a number of telescoping legs (5, 6) which can be set at one or more heights from a lowered position. The apparatus (2, 22, 42, 62, 82) can be used for a portable toilet pan (36), in addition to a fixed toilet (7). The apparatus (2, 22, 42, 62, 82) can be incorporated into a chair (32) and a wheeled chair (200), which can also include steering, braking, a clutch and motive means.



TITLE: ADJUSTABLE ELEVATING TOILET SEAT**TECHNICAL FIELD**

The present invention relates to a height-adjustable toilet seat for use by the elderly, the disabled or the handicapped as well as the able bodied. The present invention further relates to chairs and
5 wheeled chairs incorporating a height-adjustable toilet seat.

BACKGROUND ART

Toilet seats are typically formed to a fixed height. Such a height is suitable for the physically able, but is not always suitable for those with limited mobility. Toilet fixtures of an enlarged or elongated
10 bowl are known. However, such higher seats are generally of a less convenient height for mobile persons, or for children in the same household.

Toilet seats in which the base is higher than normal, or in some way elevated, are also known. However, these are normally of a fixed height. Thus, they are again inconvenient for able bodied users.

15 Removable inserts for seats are also known. In such instances the insert sits on or over the toilet bowl, generally placed in position by insertion into the bowl itself. This has the disadvantages of, firstly, being in the way of the flushing action of the toilet. Secondly, the arrangement does not allow for easy self cleaning of the insert (as is the case with the toilet bowl when it is flushed). Thirdly, whilst the insert can be easily removed, there is no sanitary place for it to be kept, where it is handy
20 for further use, adjacent the toilet.

Toilets with adjustable heights or side rails are known. An example can be seen in US Patent No. 4631759, with the use of side rails and an adjustable grip. US Patent No 5031251 discloses a mechanism connected to the bowl for raising and lowering the rim portion. However the plumbing
25 either needs to be extended for these arrangements or standard toilet seats are required to be modified.

A further disadvantage of some types of arrangements is that they are not easily operated by the disabled or handicapped person wishing to use the toilet.

A still further disadvantage of the above types of seats or toilets with seats is that the upper, elevated position is not adjustable, from user to user.

Commodes of various designs are known. These can include a mobile commode incorporated into a wheeled chair. However, commodes require an in-built toilet seat, and cannot be used in conjunction with a normal toilet.

5 It is an object of the present invention to provide an adjustable toilet seat the height of which may be varied from the normal height to one of a plurality of elevated positions. It is a further object of the present invention to provide a height adjustable toilet seat which can be incorporated into a wheeled chair.

It is a further object of the present invention to address the foregoing problems or at least to provide the public with a useful choice.

10 Further aspects and advantages of the present invention will become apparent from the ensuing description which is given by way of example only.

DISCLOSURE OF INVENTION

15 According to one aspect of the present invention there is provided a height adjustable toilet seat apparatus for use with a toilet bowl, said apparatus including:

a toilet seat;

clamping means for releasably securing said apparatus about the outside of the toilet bowl;

raising or lowering means fixed to the said clamping means and means adapted for laterally restraining the said seat; and

20 means for fixing the said raising or lowering means at a predetermined height.

According to a further aspect of the present invention there is provided a height adjustable toilet seat apparatus as described above wherein the said raising or lowering means includes a plurality of telescoping legs.

25 According to a further aspect of the present invention there is provided a height adjustable toilet set apparatus as described above wherein the said means for fixing the said raising or lowering means comprises detent means associated with the said legs.

According to a further aspect of the present invention there is provided a height adjustable toilet seat apparatus as described above wherein the said raising or lowering means are fluid actuated.

According to another aspect of the present invention there is provided a height adjustable toilet seat apparatus as described above, wherein said seat includes hinging means for releasably securing the seat to the apparatus.

5 According to another aspect of the present invention there is provided a height adjustable toilet seat apparatus as described above, wherein said toilet bowl is selected from: an existing toilet; and a portable toilet pan.

If the toilet is a portable pan, it will be appreciated that the frame work can be incorporated into an ordinary chair with some or all of the seat removed.

10 According to another aspect of the present invention there is provided a height adjustable toilet seat apparatus as described above, wherein said telescoping legs are further inter-connected and operable and the said detent means by a lever to remotely disengage said engaged stops of the legs.

Preferably, the number of legs and holders is selected from four or five. Preferably, said hinging means also releasably secures a lid for the seat to the apparatus.

15 According to another aspect of the present invention there is provided a height adjustable toilet seat apparatus as described above, said seat further includes an insert releasably engageable with said seat wherein the said insert is adapted to conform to the internal shape of the said bowl.

20 Preferably, said insert is of plastics material, fibreglass or metal. Preferably, said apparatus includes a framework capable of supporting the said seat and shaped to fit about or around the top of the bowl and made of a material selected from steel, plastics, aluminium alloy, wood, and a combination thereof.

25 With these features present it can be seen that the seat can be adjusted with the operation of one lever, making the adjustment of the height easy for a disabled or handicapped user, or an injured person. At the same time the toilet can be used in a normal manner by adjustment of the seat to its lowered position. Thus no special toilet needs to be installed for a person who is injured, disabled or handicapped.

According to another aspect of the present invention, there is provided a height adjustable toilet seat apparatus as described above, in which said seat further includes means to heat said seat. Optionally, the heating means is thermostatically controllable, and is by resistance heating. Optionally the voltage is extra low voltage, between 12 to 24 volts.

30 According to another aspect of the present invention there is provided a height adjustable toilet seat

apparatus as described above, wherein said height adjustable toilet seat further includes elements selected from:

- (a) arm rests;
- (b) a back rest;
- 5 (c) a protective skirt arranged about the telescoping legs; and
- (d) a lever arm for remotely opening and closing a toilet seat cover.

Preferably, the arm rests and/or back rests may be hinged to be hingeable and collapsible when not in use. Optionally also, one or both arm rests may be hinged to lie flat, and may include one or more rollers therein, for assisting a person moving horizontally onto the arm and onto the apparatus.

- 10 Preferably, said lever arm is operable by a hand and / or a foot control.

The arms and back rests can thus be moved quickly and simply out the way, if an able-bodied person so wishes, when using the facilities.

- 15 According to another aspect of the present invention there is provided a height adjustable toilet seat apparatus as described above, wherein said framework includes means to adjust the width of said seat. This permits the apparatus to cater for differing styles of known toilet systems of differing widths.

According to another aspect of the present invention there is provided a height adjustable toilet seat apparatus as described above, wherein said seat includes adjustable flanged portions for use in adapting the apparatus for differing widths of different styles of toilet systems.

- 20 According to another aspect of the present invention there is provided a wheeled chair, said chair including:

- (a) a height adjustable toilet seat apparatus, as described above; and
- (b) a plurality of wheels arranged about and under the apparatus.

- 25 According to another aspect of the present invention there is provided a wheeled chair, said chair further including:

- (c) steering means to turn at least one set of wheels.

According to another aspect of the present invention there is provided a wheeled chair, said chair further including:

(d) means operable to apply a brake to one or more wheels.

According to another aspect of the present invention there is provided a wheeled chair as described above wherein said chair further includes:

(e) a battery and a motor, permitting the wheeled chair to be operated by the user.

5 According to another aspect of the present invention there is provided a wheeled chair, said chair further including:

(f) clutch means permitting the disengagement of the motor whilst said chair is stationary or moving.

Preferably the clutch means is of the ratchet type.

10 According to another aspect of the present invention there is provided a wheeled chair as described above wherein said chair further includes one or two footrests.

Thus, the height adjustment apparatus can be incorporated into a chair for use by a disabled or handicapped person. Thus a special commode, or commode chair is not needed in addition to the above chair. It can also be used a wheel chair, in the usual way.

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BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF DRAWINGS

Further aspects of the present invention will become apparent from the following description which is given by way of example only, and with reference to the accompanying drawings in which:

20 Figure 1 is a side view of a first preferred embodiment of the seat apparatus of the present invention in an extended position, with a toilet in outline only;

Figure 2 is a side view of the first preferred embodiment of the seat apparatus of the present invention in a lowered position;

Figure 3 is a front view of the first preferred embodiment of seat apparatus of the present invention in the same position as in Fig. 1;

25 Figure 4 is a front view of the first preferred embodiment of the seat apparatus of the present invention in the same position as in Fig. 2;

Figure 5 is a back view of the first preferred embodiment of the seat apparatus of the present

invention in the same position as in Fig. 1;

Figure 6 is a back view of the first preferred embodiment of the seat apparatus of the present invention in the same position as in Fig. 2;

5 Figure 7 is a side view of the insert of the first preferred embodiment of the seat apparatus of the present invention; and

Figure 8 is a perspective view from above of the insert of the first preferred embodiment of the seat apparatus of the present invention;

Figure 9 is a plan view of the insert of the first preferred embodiment of the seat apparatus of the present invention, showing a heater;

10 Figure 10 is a side view of a first preferred embodiment of the seat apparatus of the present invention in the extended position, showing heater controls;

Figure 11 is a side view of the first preferred embodiment of the seat apparatus of the present invention in the lowered position, showing heater controls;

15 Figure 12 is a side view of a second preferred embodiment of the seat apparatus of the present invention;

Figure 13 is a second side view of the second preferred embodiment of the seat apparatus of the present invention;

Figure 14 is a back view of a third preferred embodiment of the seat apparatus of the present invention, in an extended position;

20 Figure 15 is a back view of a third preferred embodiment of the seat apparatus of the present invention, in a lowered position;

Figure 16 is a back view of a third preferred embodiment of the seat apparatus of the present invention, in an extended position;

25 Figure 17 is a back view of a third preferred embodiment of the seat apparatus of the present invention, in a lowered position;

Figure 18 is a side view of a third preferred embodiment of the seat apparatus of the present invention, in an extended position;

Figure 19 is a side view of a third preferred embodiment of the seat apparatus of the present invention, in a lowered position;

Figure 20 is a side view of a fourth preferred embodiment of the seat apparatus of the present invention, in an extended position;

5 Figure 21 is a side view of a fourth preferred embodiment of the seat apparatus of the present invention, in a lowered position;

Figure 22 is a plan view from above of the arrangement of part of the support frame of the seat apparatus of the present invention;

10 Figure 23 is a side view of the seat cover lifting mechanism of the seat apparatus of the present invention, with the cover in the closed position;

Figure 24 is a side view of the seat cover lifting mechanism of the seat apparatus of the present invention, with the cover in the open position;

Figures 25a, 25b, 25c and 26a, 26b, 26c show two embodiments of an extension portion of the seat apparatus of the present invention;

15 Figure 27 is a back view of the fifth preferred embodiment of the seat apparatus of the present invention in the same position as in Fig. 1;

Figure 28 is a back view of the fifth preferred embodiment of the seat apparatus of the present invention in the same position as in Fig. 2;

20 Figure 29 is a side view of a first preferred embodiment of the wheeled chair of the present invention;

Figure 30 is a front view of a first preferred embodiment of the wheeled chair of the present invention;

Figure 31 is a back view of a first preferred embodiment of the wheeled chair of the present invention; and

25 Figure 33 is a plan view from above of a first preferred embodiment of the wheeled chair of the present invention.

BEST MODES FOR CARRYING OUT THE INVENTION

Referring to Figs. 1 to 6, a toilet seat apparatus 2, which is capable of height adjustment to a plurality of positions, is thereshown. The apparatus 2 includes a hinged seat component 3 (of known type),
5 a clamping band 4, five telescoping legs 5, each leg 5 being within a holder 6, and a seat frame 11 (as best shown in Figs. 1 and 2).

The apparatus 2 is associated with a standard, fixed toilet bowl 7 (Figs. 1, 3, and 5) which has a base 8 and in-turned, top edge 9. The plumbing and arrangement of the bowl 7, the base 8, and the top edge 9 are all of known type. The apparatus 2 further includes a hinged lid 19 securable to the frame
10 11 at the back thereof. The hinged securement is of the same type as is known for securement of a hinged seat cover to a known toilet seat.

The clamping band 4 is a metal band, of known type, which is clamped about the top edge 9 to secure the apparatus 2 to the bowl 7. The seat frame 11 is also a metal band of the same general shape and type as the clamping band 4. Preferably these two components, the clamping band 4 and the seat
15 frame 11, sit together in complementary manner when the seat is in the lowered position (of Figs. 2, 4 and 6). If so desired, an additional brace 22 (Figs 5 and 6) across the back of the toilet may be added to the clamping band 4. Such a brace, if used in conjunction with the clamping band 4, may be secured by use of the existing bolt holes (for securement of the lid to the bowl).

Referring to Figs. 1, 3 and 5, each leg 5, which is capable of sliding within the respective holder 6,
20 is secured at the top thereof to the seat frame 11. The respective holder 6 is secured to the clamping band 4 by a rigid flange 12. Optionally the flange 12 includes an additional shoulder 13 at the top to further locate the top of the respective holder 6.

Referring to Figs. 1 to 4, each holder 6 incorporates a plurality of holes 14 evenly spaced along the height thereof. The respective leg 5 includes a detent mechanism comprising a spring loaded pin 15
25 capable of locating in and through each hole 14 depending on the height of the leg 5 relative to the holes 14.

In the embodiment shown the apparatus includes five telescoping legs 5 (and corresponding holders 6): two spaced on opposing sides and one at the front of the bowl 7. However, it will be appreciated that there may be three legs 5, with one positioned at the front of the bowl 7, and two adjacent the
30 rear of the bowl 7, one on each side thereof. Alternatively, there may be four legs 5, (and corresponding holders 6), with the front leg 5 omitted, as is desired.

It will be appreciated that after disengaging the pins 15, the legs 5 may be moved from position to position with ease, thereafter locating and locking in another hole to fix the height of the apparatus 2, until adjustment is again required. While shown as pins 15, the detent means may include other known detent mechanisms such as spring loaded ball bearings, if so desired.

- 5 Thus a disabled person may be able to adjust the height of the apparatus 2 with comparative ease, but also be assured that the apparatus 2 will remain at the chosen height until further adjustment to the legs 5 is made.

Referring to Figs. 1 and 7 to 9, a seat 3 having a removable insert 16 is there shown. The seat 3 includes a top flange 17 which is capable of being supported by the seat frame 11, being raised and
10 lowered therewith. The insert 16 is of a shape complementary to the internal shape of the top 9 of the bowl 7. Alternatively, the insert may be constructed from flexible material in order to conform to the inner shape of a range of different models of toilet bowl 5, it may for example be of a bellows or concertina type construction, thereby providing a continuous connection between the bowl 7 and the seat 3.

- 15 The top flange 17 of the seat 3 further includes a heating coil 21 of known type within the body of the flange 17 or on the underside thereof. The insertion and arrangement of the heating coil 21 can be fashioned in known manner. The coil 21 is connected electrically to a thermostat and on/off controls 20 (Fig. 8, 9), in known manner. The top 17 includes a cover 18 covering the coil 21, in order that the user does not come into contact with the exposed coil 21. Thus, with a known 100 watt
20 heating coil 21, extra low voltage and a known transformer (not shown), the heating coil 21 may be left on thermostatic control. The voltage range is 12 to 24 volts.

The above described apparatus 2 operates as follows:

- The apparatus 2 starts in the lower position (Fig 2, 4 and 6). In this position any insert 16 is either removed or nested within the bowl 7, depending on the shape and size of the insert 16. The lid 19
25 is closed in the normal manner. The legs 5 each fully encased within the respective holder 6, with the pin 15 in the lowermost hole 14 (Fig. 4).

Alternatively, the insert 16 may further include a liner (not shown) of the same general shape as the straight sided insert 16 – The liner may be removable for washing (etc).

- The apparatus 2 is raised to an elevated position by pressing in the pins 15 and pulling the frame 11
30 and the apparatus 2 in an upward direction. The release of the pins 15 is automatic and allows the legs 5 to slide in an upward direction until the pins 15 engage with a hole 14 in a higher position on each respective holder 6. Once all the pins 15 are engaged, the apparatus 2 is retained in an elevated

position. Depending on the height selected, the insert 16 either sits on top of or within the bowl 7. The insert 16 can thus be easily removed for cleaning.

5 As the lid 19 is hinged to the frame 11, the lid 19 also moves up with the apparatus 2. The lid can be opened in standard manner, and the insert 16 placed so that the top flange 17 rests on the seat frame 11.

It will be appreciated by those skilled in the art, that with a plurality of holes 14, the height to which the apparatus 2 is raised can be selected to suit the user. It will also be appreciated by those skilled in the art that only two or three sets of holes 14 may be needed.

10 Also, it will be appreciated that the shape of the insert 16 may be adapted so that the insert 16 can remain permanently a part of the apparatus 2, if so desired.

The insert 16 may be of any appropriate material that is easy to keep clean, and with an aesthetically pleasing surface finish. For example the material of the insert 16 may be selected from: plastics materials, fibreglass, metal, and wood, or any combination thereof.

15 It will further be appreciated that the clamping band 4 can be secured releasably about the bowl 7. Thus, should the height adjustment no longer be needed the apparatus 2 can be removed. A seat and lid of standard type can be re-secured to the bolt holes on the standard toilet bowl 7, in known manner, once the apparatus 2 of the present invention is no longer needed on a longer term basis.

20 Whilst the above described apparatus 2 has been described with reference to the addition of an insert 16, it will be appreciated that this may be omitted, if so desired. Similarly, if so desired, the heater coil 21 and associated thermostat 20 may be omitted.

Also, it will be appreciated that whilst the invention is described with reference to a fixed, standard type of toilet, the apparatus 2 may be adapted to fit a commode or other type of portable toilet with a bowl, as described below.

25 Referring to Figures 10 and 11, a variation of the first embodiment of the apparatus 2 is there shown. Like numbered parts refer to the same part as for the first preferred embodiment. In this variation the apparatus 2 is actuated using fluid power. Preferably linear actuators are employed, alternatively other types, such a cushion type actuators may be used. The legs 5 incorporate double-acting rams, the actuation of which is controlled via a manual lever 23, of known type. Optionally, the double acting rams may be replaced by single acting rams.

30 In Figure 10 a side arm 24 is shown in the down position. In Figure 11 the side arm 24 is shown in

the up position. The arm 24 is formed of a "U" channel of steel. However, it will be appreciated that any type of material suitable for an armrest, with or without padding, may be used.

5 The armrest 24 is hinged at both ends about pivot point 25, in known manner. It will be appreciated that with known types of arrangement, a three-position arm rest 24 may also be incorporated without departing from the scope of the invention. Also illustrated is a toilet roll holder 24a fitted to the arm mounting.

Referring to Figures 12 to 14, the second preferred embodiment of the seat apparatus 22 of the present is there shown. Like numbered parts refer to the same part as in the first preferred embodiment. The apparatus 22 incorporates a standard commode chair 32 (shown in dotted outline)
10 of known type. The chair commode 32 has front, back, sides and legs, in the ordinary manner.

In this embodiment the insert 16 has a base as well as sides. The telescoping arrangement of the legs and holder (5, 6) works in the same manner as for the second preferred embodiment, except that there are four legs and holders (5, 6) not five of each. Arms 24, operating in the same manner of the first preferred embodiment, are present. These are shown in the drawings but may be optional. The
15 heating element (not shown) and control 23 for controlling the fluid powered linear actuators is also present. In this embodiment the frame 31 incorporates a plurality of strips of metal 36, which engage with a nut and bolt of known type 33 at the top of the telescoping arms and holders (5, 6).

Referring to Figures 14 to 19 these disclose a third preferred embodiment of the apparatus of the present invention 42. Like numbered parts refer to the same part as for the first preferred
20 embodiment.

In this third embodiment the detent means are connected mechanically in order that they can be operated by a single action. Stops 15 within each set of telescoping legs and holders (5, 6) are rigidly connected together by a series of bars 55 (or rigid connecting links). By the operation of the lever handle 56 (Figures 18 and 19) the pins 15 can be pushed mechanically, so that all pins 15 are pushed
25 at the same time. This considerably assists with the raising and lowering of the insert 16 and the seat 3. This is especially so with fingers which are not agile. Mechanical linkages 57 are arranged in known manner to operate from one side of the apparatus 42 to the second side.

In this embodiment of the apparatus 42 there is also shown a skirt 59 (in dotted outline). The skirt is provided to drape and hide the sets of telescoping legs and holders (5, 6) and to act as a protection
30 to the person using the toilet from any hard corners or edges of the apparatus 42. The skirt 59 may be of any appropriate protective material for example; an injection moulded plastic shape of rigid form. Other known materials may be used, as is desired.

It will be appreciated that the hingeable arms 24 of the first preferred embodiment (Figures 11 and 12) may be used to assist this embodiment of the apparatus 42, if so desired.

5 This embodiment of the apparatus 42 also shows a lengthening strap 60 (Figures 14 and 15), which can be used to adjust the width of the back portion of the apparatus 42. It will be appreciated by those skilled in the art that the width of the back of all styles and designs of toilets is not constant. With the assistance of straps 60, the rear end of the apparatus 42 may be adjusted in width to accommodate such variations. Also to accommodate such variations the seat 17 of the insert 16 may include flanges 16a hingeable at 17a and movable within a limited range as provided by slots 36 (Figure 8). In this manner the width of the insert 16 and apparatus 42 (or apparatus 2) may be varied
10 to accommodate varying types and styles of toilet bowls 7.

Referring to Figures 20 and 21, a fourth preferred embodiment of the apparatus 62 is there shown. Like numbered parts refer to the same part as for the first preferred embodiment. In this fourth preferred embodiment the apparatus 62 incorporates the lever arm 56 and arrangement of straps 55 for operation of the pins 15 in the legs and inserts (5, 6). The apparatus 62 includes an insert 36 of
15 the second preferred embodiment. Also shown a hinged back 66, which can fold down flush with the seat cover 3.

The base of the legs and holders (5, 6) incorporate feet 67 having removable pads 167 adapted to enable the apparatus 62 to be rested on the ground or on a chair. The feet 67 are telescopically extendable and may also be readily removed if not required. It will be appreciated that the apparatus
20 62 is very compact and could also be positioned on a low table or other furniture when needed. It is also well adapted for use in a car, caravan or out-of-doors when camping etc.

Whilst the hingeable back 66 has been shown with reference to the fourth preferred embodiment 62, it will be appreciated that the hinged back 66 may also be used in other embodiments, as is desired. Preferably the back 66 is from a rigid metal strip, or other known materials appropriate for use for
25 a backing support for a person. It may be padded or not, as is desired.

Referring to Figure 22, the means of clamping the apparatus 2 to a bowl 7 includes slotted members 132 positioned about the periphery of the bowl. Adjustability to accommodate bowls 7 having varying dimensions is provided by way of slots 132a in the members 132 fixed together with nuts and bolts 32b, which can be tightened once the width of the apparatus 62 is adjusted.

30 Referring to Figures 23 and 24, a mechanism for raising and holding the seat 3 includes a segment 160 about the centre of which the seat 3 is hinged for rotation. A spring-loaded catch 122 engages the segment 160 to prevent rotation thereof, the catch is releasable by the actuation handle 121 of

peddle 124, and thereafter returns to the locked position. A mechanical linkages (of known type) includes sliding shaft 161 which is slidably fixed to collar 125. By operation of this arrangement 120 in known manner the cover or seat lid 3 can be raised and lowered by someone of limited agility by use of hand (lever arm 121) or foot (lever arm 124).

- 5 Figures 25a, 25b, 25c, and 26a, 26b, 26c show two versions of a shield, which can be used in any embodiment of the apparatus (2, 22, 42, 62) in front of the front portion of the insert (16, 36). The shield (90, 100) is shaped to fit about the toilet bowl 7 at the front thereof. Figure 26(a-c) shows non-adjustable shield 90. Figure 27 shows an adjustable shield 100 of two portions (100a and 100b). The two portions are slotted 101 with nuts 102 for adjustability of the overall length of the shield 100.
- 10 Figures 27 and 28 disclose a fifth preferred embodiment of the apparatus 82, which incorporates a curved shield 100 without the insert 16. This embodiment also incorporates the skirt 59 and lever 56 for operation of all pins 15 simultaneously, and the adjustability straps 60. Also included is a lever arm 120 for the toilet seat cover) as shown in Figures 24 and 25 (a-c).

- Referring to Figures 29 to 32, there is thereshown a first preferred embodiment of a wheeled chair
- 15 200 in accordance with the present invention. The wheeled chair 200 incorporates elements of the apparatus (2, 22, 42, 62, 82) in all the embodiments discussed above. Where like numbers are used, like elements are present.

- The chair 200 incorporates an insert 16, five legs 5 and holders 6. A hingeable back 66 and two side arms 224 are present. The side arms 224 incorporate rollers 225 but are otherwise hingeable in like
- 20 manner as the arms 24. The rollers 225 can be used when the arm 224 is in a horizontal position, to assist the passage of someone from a bed (or the like) to the chair 200. The chair 200 incorporates a series of wheels 201 of known type.

- Referring to Figure 32, the front wheels 202 are steerable by means of a small steering wheel 203 at a height suitable for working by a person sitting in the chair 200. A series of axles 203a operable in
- 25 known manner permit the transfer of rotation of the steering wheel 203 to the wheels 202 to enable steering of the chair. Footrests 204 can be positioned appropriately either side of the front wheels 202 or above the wheels 202 for keeping the feet out of the way of the wheels 202.

- A battery 210 provides motor power. This can be an appropriate size for running the engine 211 at the rear of the vehicle 200. A series of pulleys 212 and a bevel gear arrangement 213 (Figure 31)
- 30 transfer power from one side of the chair 200 to the other. This arrangement is required so that the chair 200 can be backed over toilet 7. Thus the adjustability of the height of the chair 200 can be used in conjunction with the toilet 7 so that an adjustable toilet seat is provided within the chair 200.

It will be appreciated however that if the portable insert 36 (with base) is used the gear linkage and drive axle from the pulleys 212 to the second side of the chair 200 may be more direct and need not follow the arrangement shown in Figure 32 for transferring motion in a vertical and horizontal direction, so that the chair clears the toilet 7.

- 5 A brake 214 is used with a series of individual levers in known manner to provide a brake for one wheel 201 or all wheels 201, 202 in known manner. The brake 214 can be of the type that bears against a wheel 201 or 202 and can be used to stop the chair 200, or to anchor it in a desired position.

- Optionally a ratchet clutch of known type may be incorporated into the chair 200. This permits the chair 200 to be stationary, with the motor 212 running; and also permits the wheeling of the chair 200
10 when the motor 212 is not running. At speed controller 220, is shown, operable in known manner.

Whilst the chair 200 has been shown with steering, clutch, motor power, brakes and footrests, it will be appreciated by those skilled in the art that the chair 200 may have any or all of these features, either separately or in combination, as is desired. The degree to which all these features are present will depend in part on the degree of mobility and dexterity of the user.

- 15 Referring to Fig 29, an additional set of telescoping inserts 226 may be added to each telescoping leg and insert (5, 6) to raise the chair 200 clear of the wheels(201,202). This permits the chair 200 to be parked without using the brake 214. Additionally, the chair 200 can be used as a commode, in known manner.

- 20 Aspects of the present invention have been described by way of example only and it should be appreciated that modifications and additions may be made thereto without departing from the scope thereof.

CLAIMS:

1. A height adjustable toilet seat apparatus for use with a toilet bowl, said apparatus including:
- a toilet seat;
- clamping means for releasably securing said apparatus about the outside of the toilet bowl;
- 5 raising or lowering means fixed to the said clamping means and means adapted for laterally restraining the said seat; and
- means for fixing the said raising or lowering means at a predetermined height.

2. A height adjustable toilet seat apparatus as claimed in claim 1 wherein the said raising or
- 10 lowering means includes a plurality of telescoping legs.

3. A height adjustable toilet set apparatus as claimed in claim 2 wherein the said means for fixing the said raising or lowering means comprises detent means associated with the said legs.

4. A height adjustable toilet seat apparatus as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 3 wherein the said raising or lowering means are fluid actuated.

5. A height adjustable toilet set apparatus as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 4 wherein said
- 20 seat includes hinging means for releasably securing the seat to the apparatus.

6. A height adjustable toilet set apparatus as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 5 wherein said toilet bowl is selected from an existing toilet and a portable toilet pan.

7. A height adjustable toilet set apparatus as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 6 wherein said
- 25 toilet bowl is a portable toilet pan and the apparatus is incorporated into a chair.

- 5
8. A height adjustable toilet set apparatus as claimed in any one of claims 2 to 7 wherein said telescoping legs are interconnected and operable by a lever to remotely disengage said engaged stops of the legs.

9. A height adjustable toilet set apparatus as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 8 wherein the number of legs is selected from four and five.

- 10
10. A height adjustable toilet set apparatus as claimed in any one of the preceding claims wherein said seat further includes an insert releasably engageable with the said seat wherein the said insert is adapted to conform to the internal shape of the said bowl.

11. A high adjustable toilet seat as claimed in claim 10 wherein said insert incorporates concertina sides.

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12. A height adjustable toilet set apparatus as claimed in claim 10 or 11 wherein the said insert is made from a material selected from the group: plastics, fibreglass, metal, and a combination thereof.

- 20
13. A height adjustable toilet set apparatus as claimed in any one of the preceding claims wherein the seat is supported by a framework capable of supporting the said seat and shaped to fit about or around the top of the bowl and made of a material selected from: steel, plastics, aluminium alloys, wood, and a combination thereof.

- 25
14. A height adjustable toilet set apparatus as claimed in any one of the preceding claims wherein said seat further includes means to heat said seat.

15. A height adjustable toilet set apparatus as claimed in any one of the preceding claims wherein said heating means is thermostatically controlled and the heating is by resistance means.

5 16. A height adjustable toilet set apparatus as claimed in any one of the preceding claims wherein said seat further includes one or more of the following elements:

(a) One or two arm rests;

(b) a back rest;

(c) a protective skirt arranged about the telescoping legs; and

(d) a lever arm for remotely opening and closing a toilet seat cover.

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17. A height adjustable toilet set apparatus as claimed in claim 13 wherein each said arm rest and the back rest are collapsible.

15 18. A height adjustable toilet set apparatus as claimed in either claim 16 or claim 17 wherein one or both arm rests further include one or more rollers operable when the arms are in a planar position with the seat.

19. A height adjustable toilet set apparatus as claimed in any one of claims 13 to 15 wherein said skirt is injection moulded from a plastic.

20

20. A height adjustable toilet set apparatus as claimed in any one of the preceding claims wherein said framework further includes means to adjust the width of the rear of the seat.

21. A height adjustable toilet set apparatus as claimed in claim 20 wherein said adjustment means for the width and height of the seat further includes pivotable flanged portions on each side of the seat.

5

22. A wheeled chair, said chair including:
- (a) a height adjustable toilet seat apparatus, as claimed in any one of the preceding claims; and
 - (b) a plurality of wheels arranged about and under the apparatus.

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23. A wheeled chair as claimed in claim 22 wherein said chair further includes steering means to turn at lest one set of wheels.

15

24. A wheeled chair as claimed in either claim 22 or claim 23 wherein said chair further includes means operable to apply a brake to one or more wheels.

25. A wheeled chair as claimed in any one of claims 22 to 24 wherein said chair further includes power means and a motor operable by the user.

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26. A wheeled chair as claimed in claims 25 wherein said chair further includes clutch means permitting the disengagement of the motor.

27. A wheeled chair as claimed in any one of claims 22 to 26 where said chair further includes one or two footrests.

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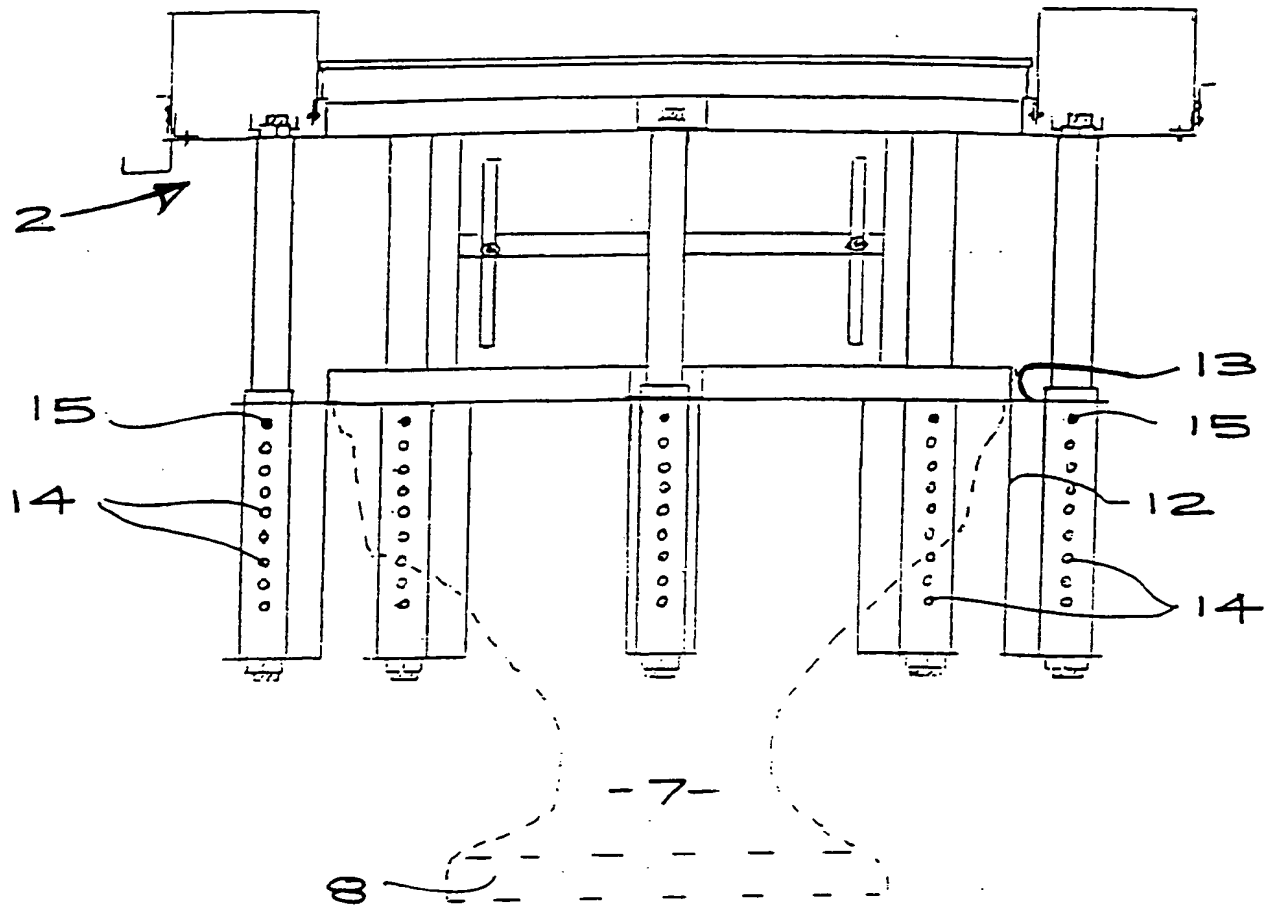


FIG. 3

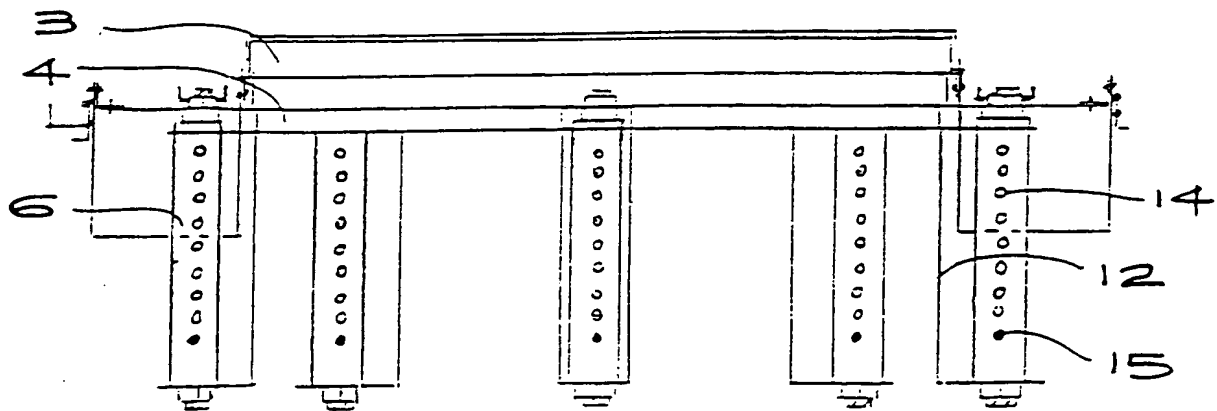


FIG. 4

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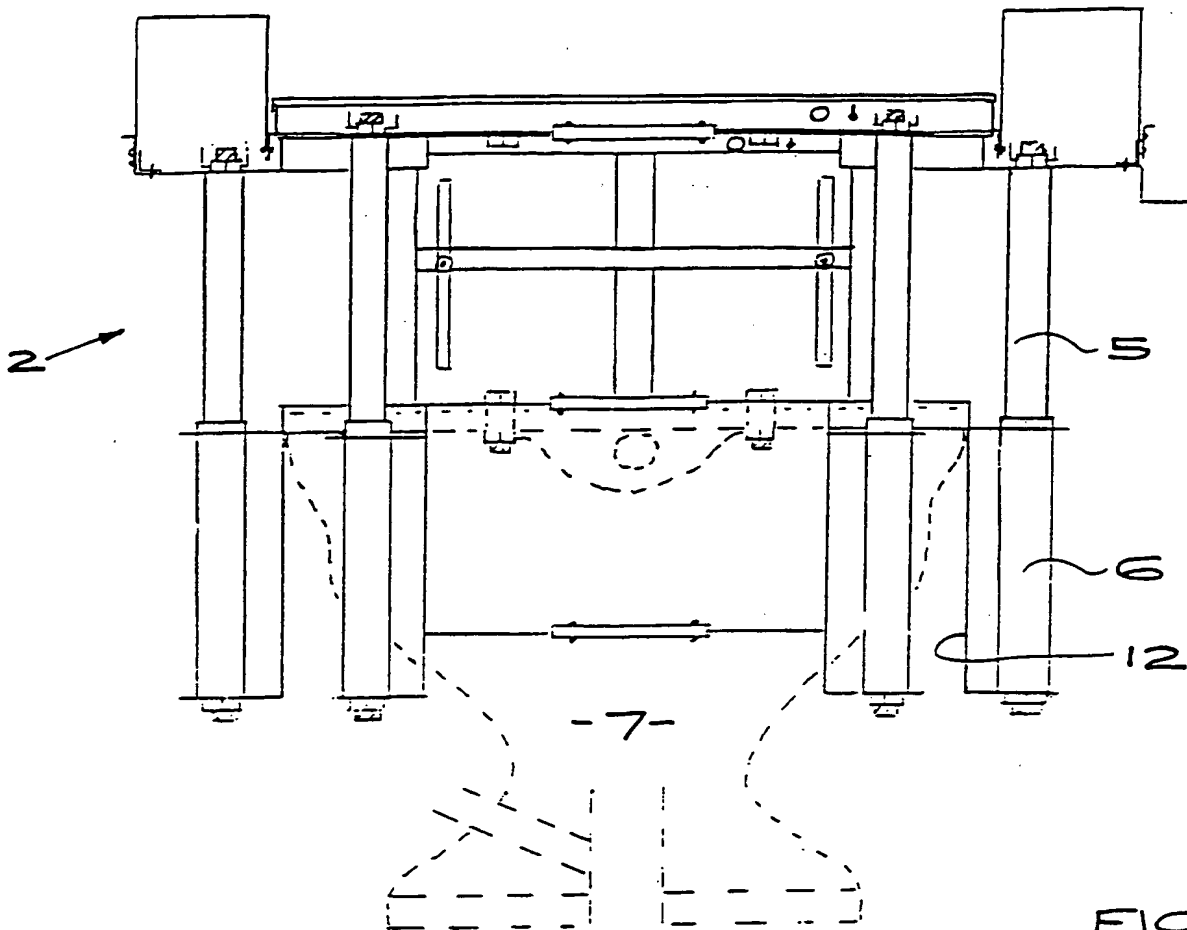


FIG. 5

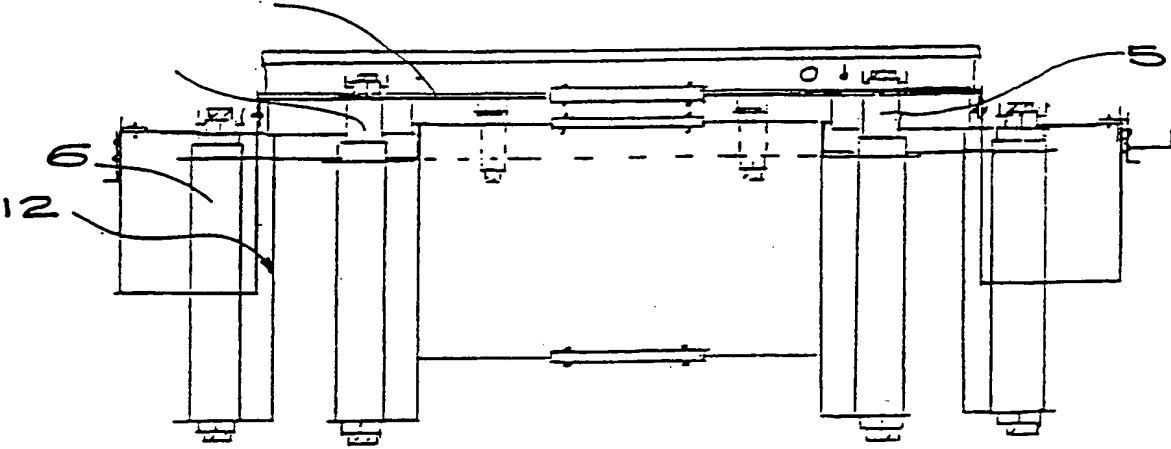


FIG. 6

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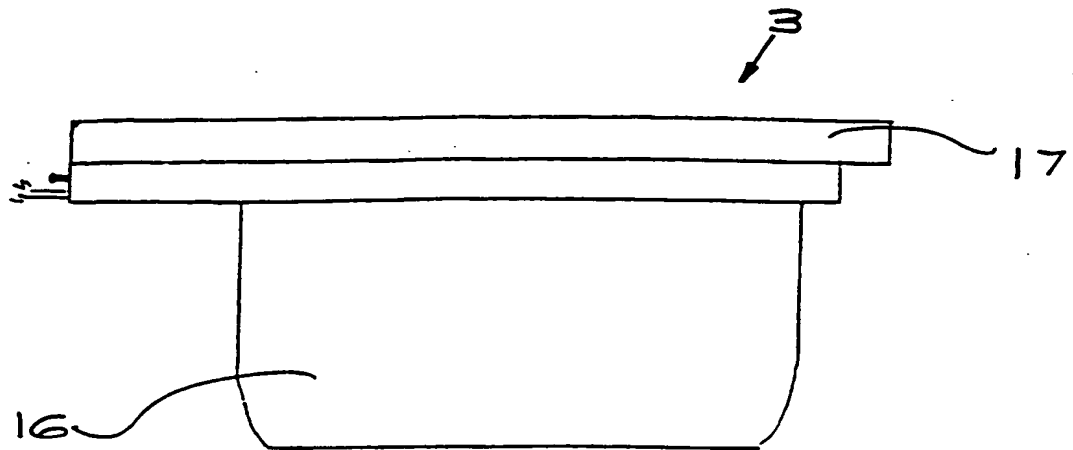


FIG. 7

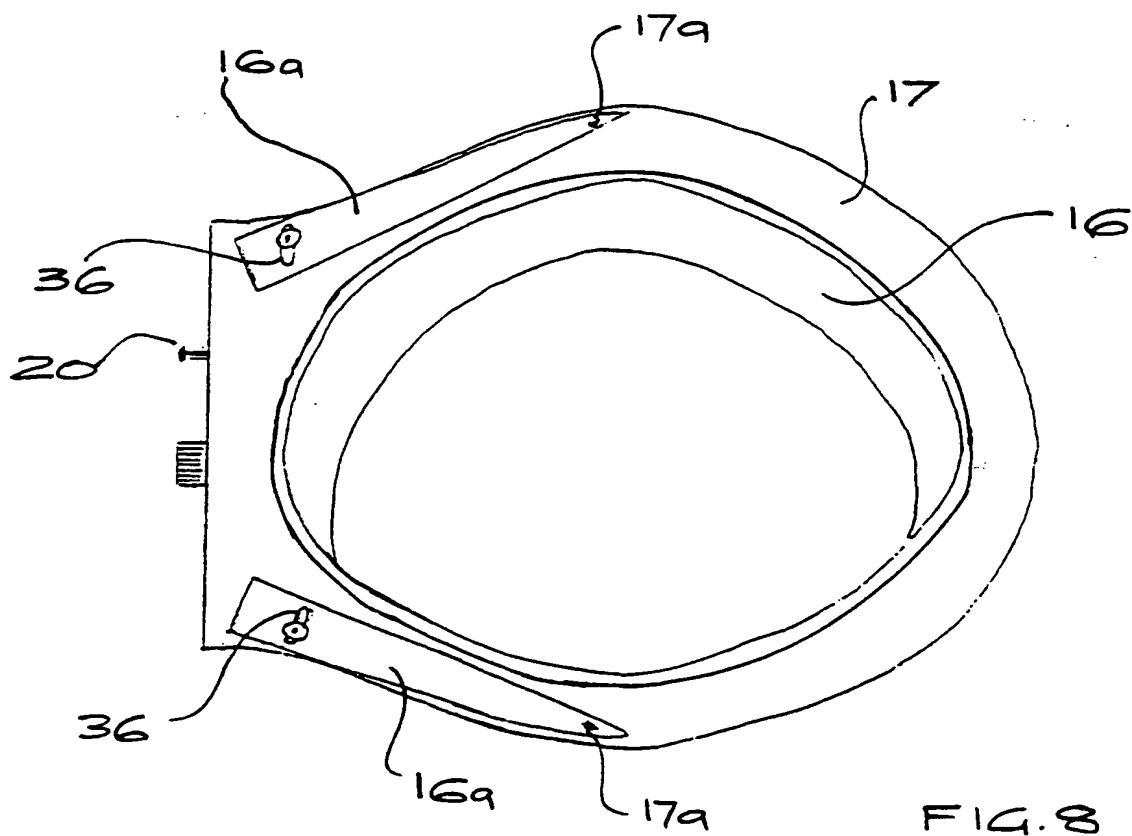


FIG. 8

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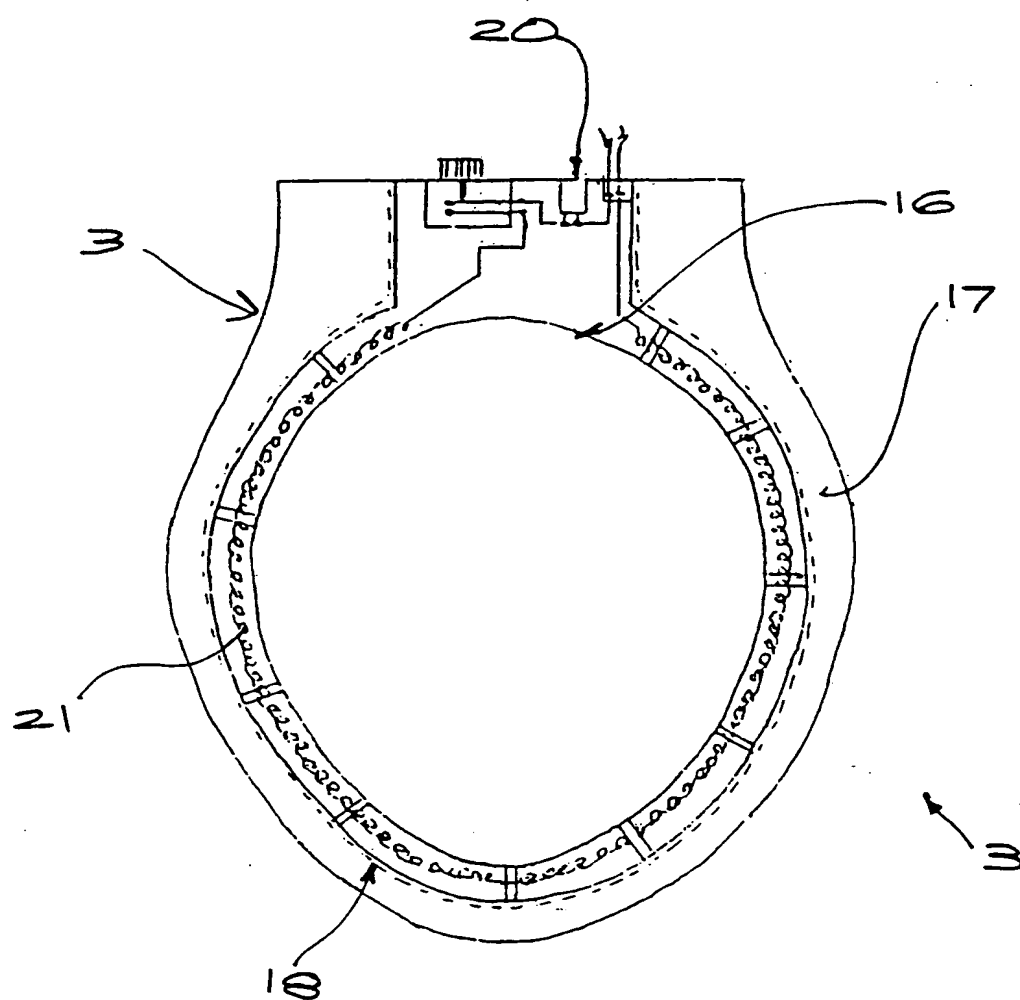
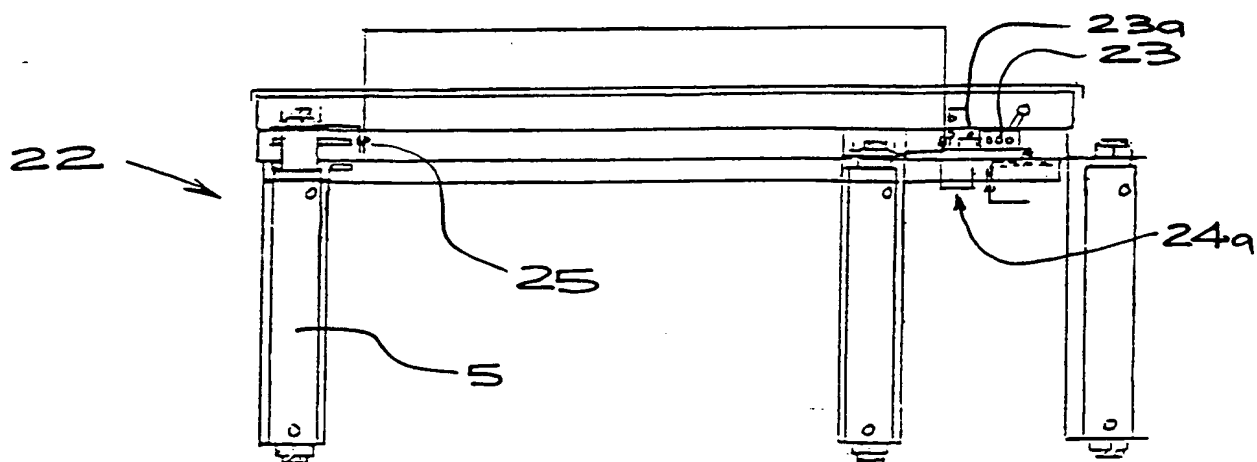
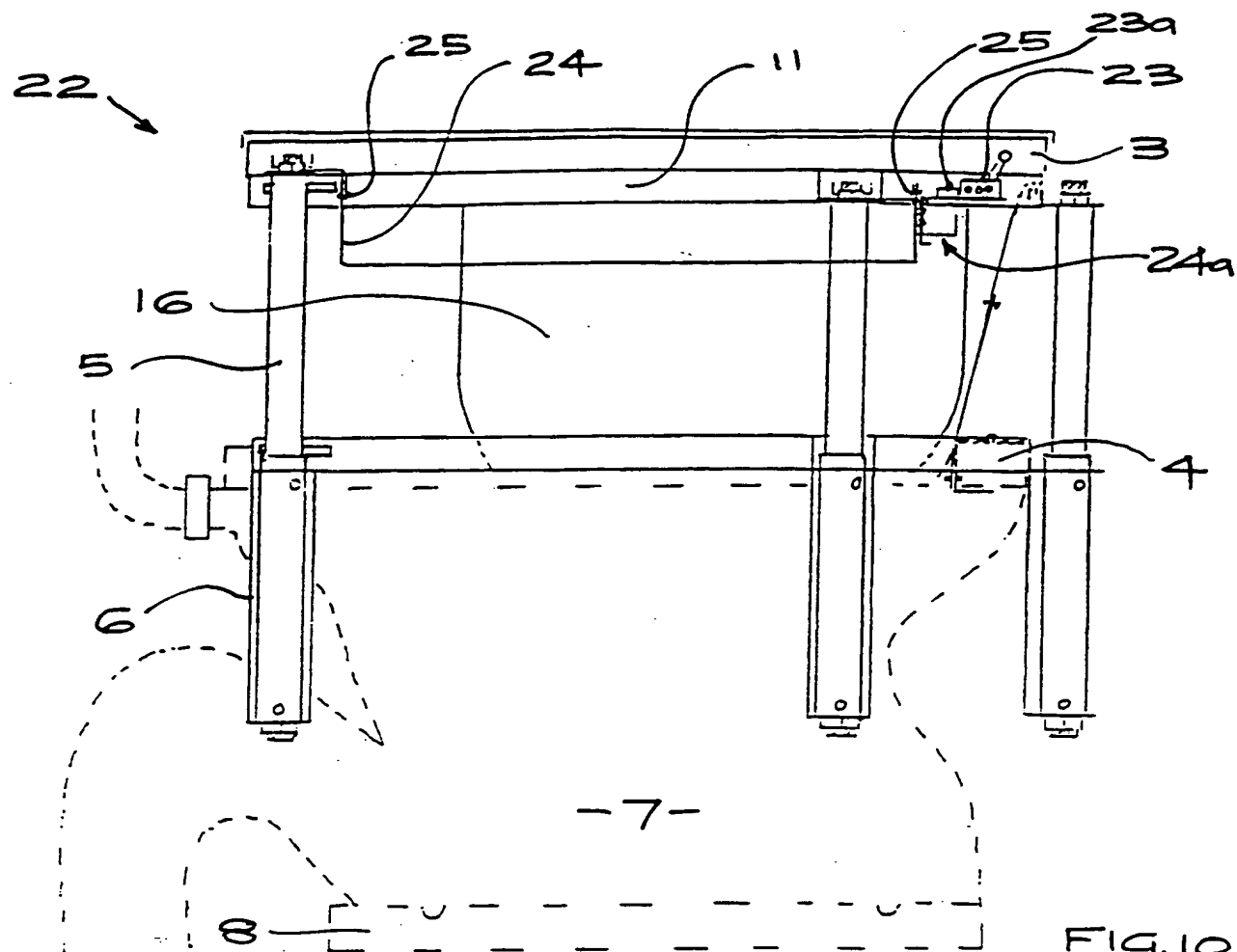


FIG. 9

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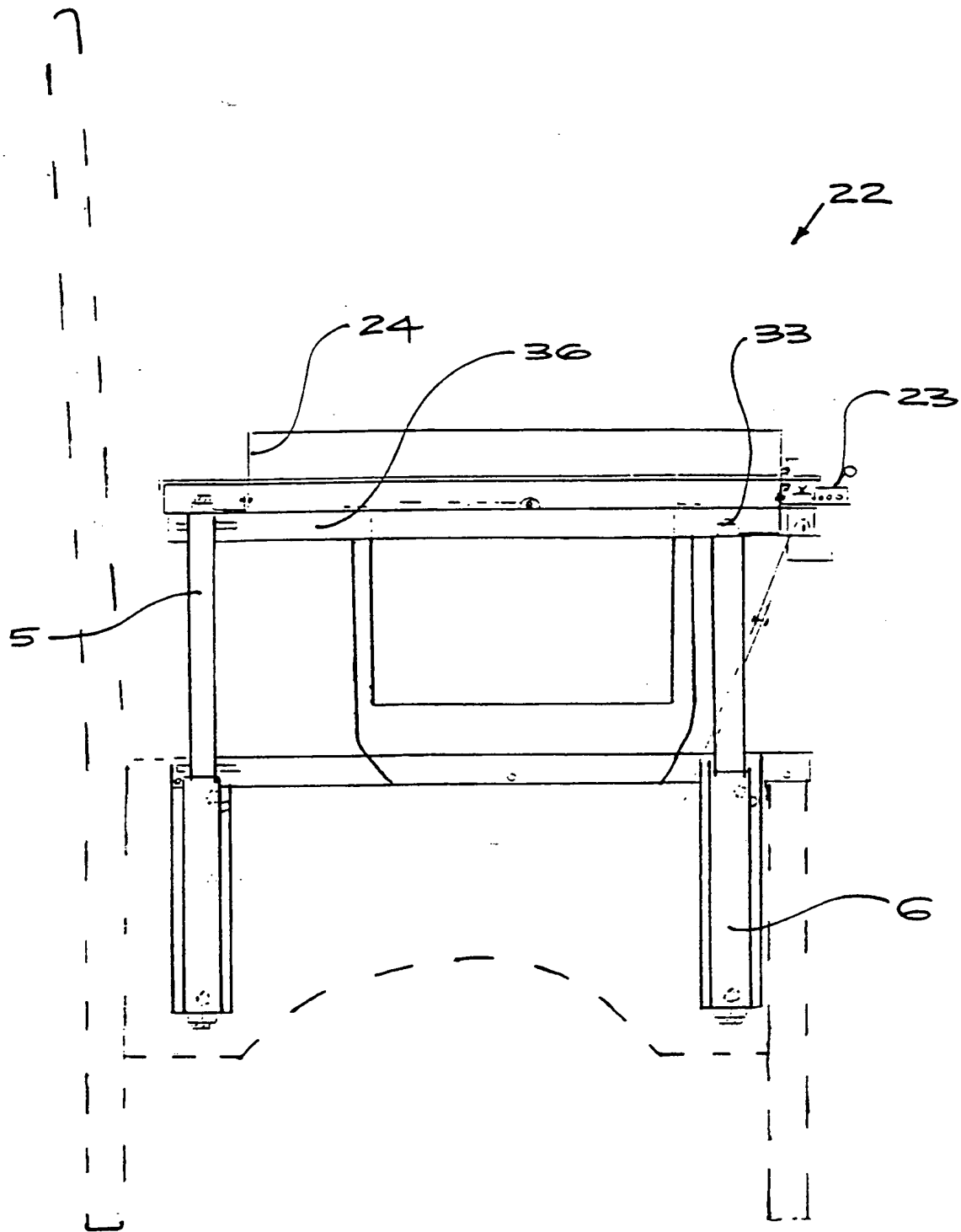


FIG. 12

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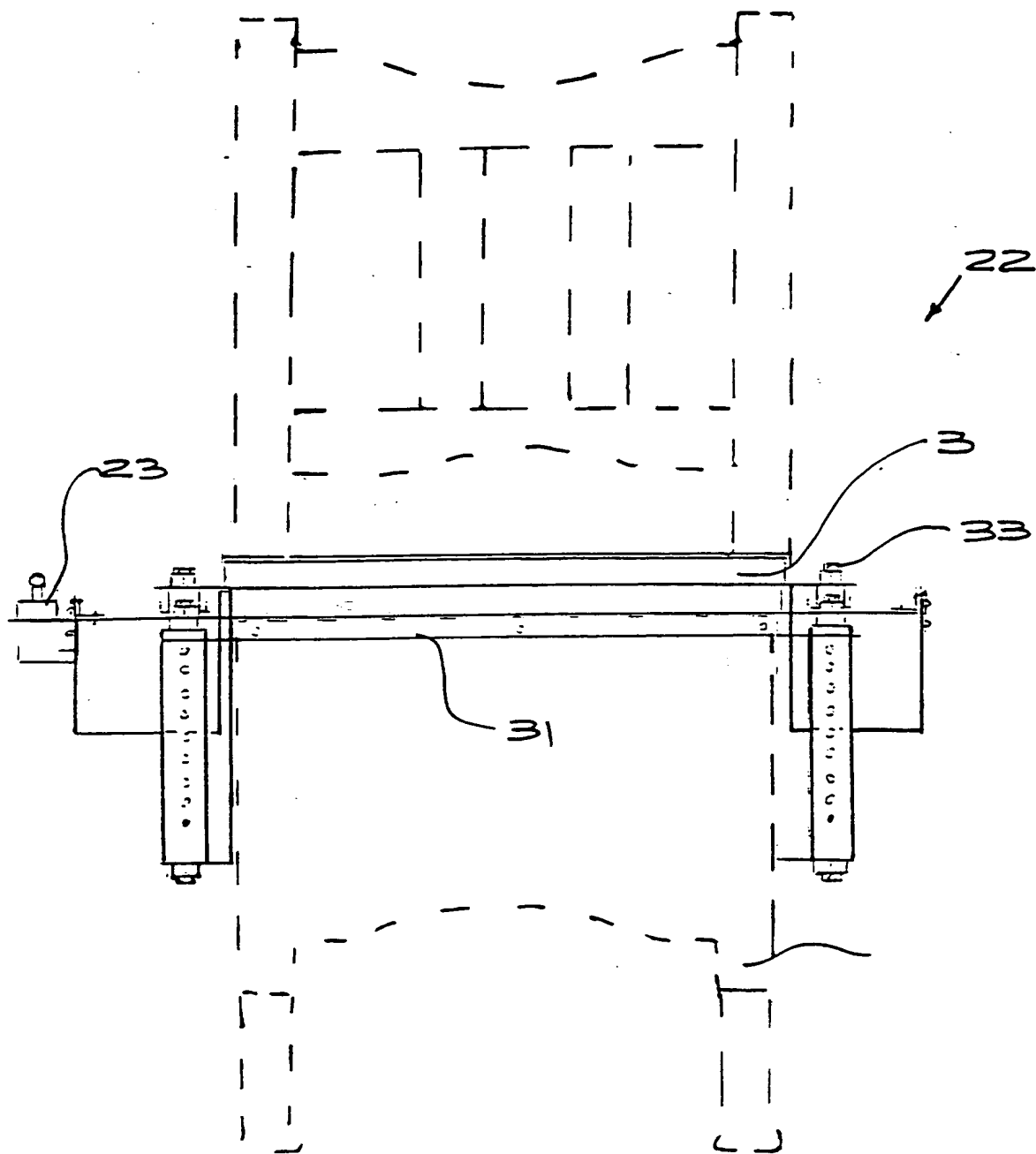
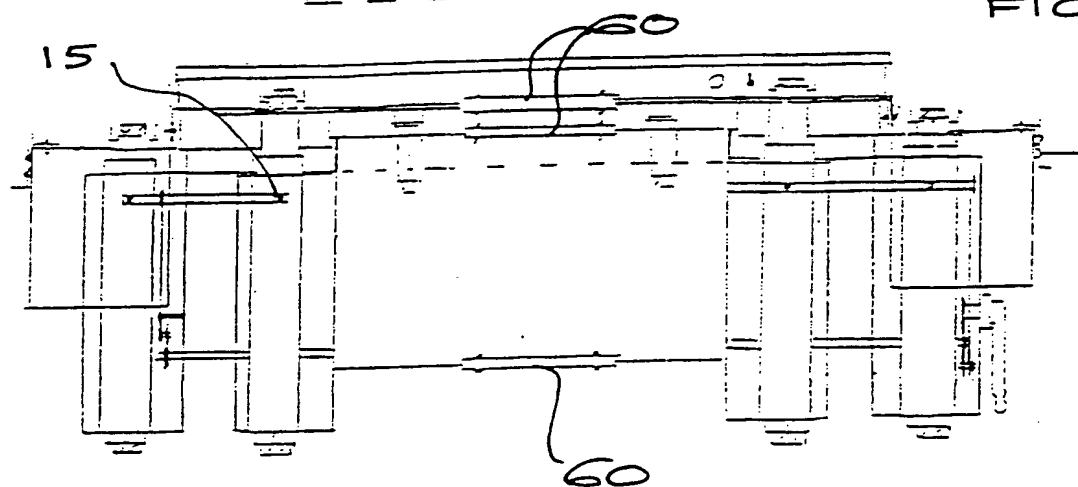
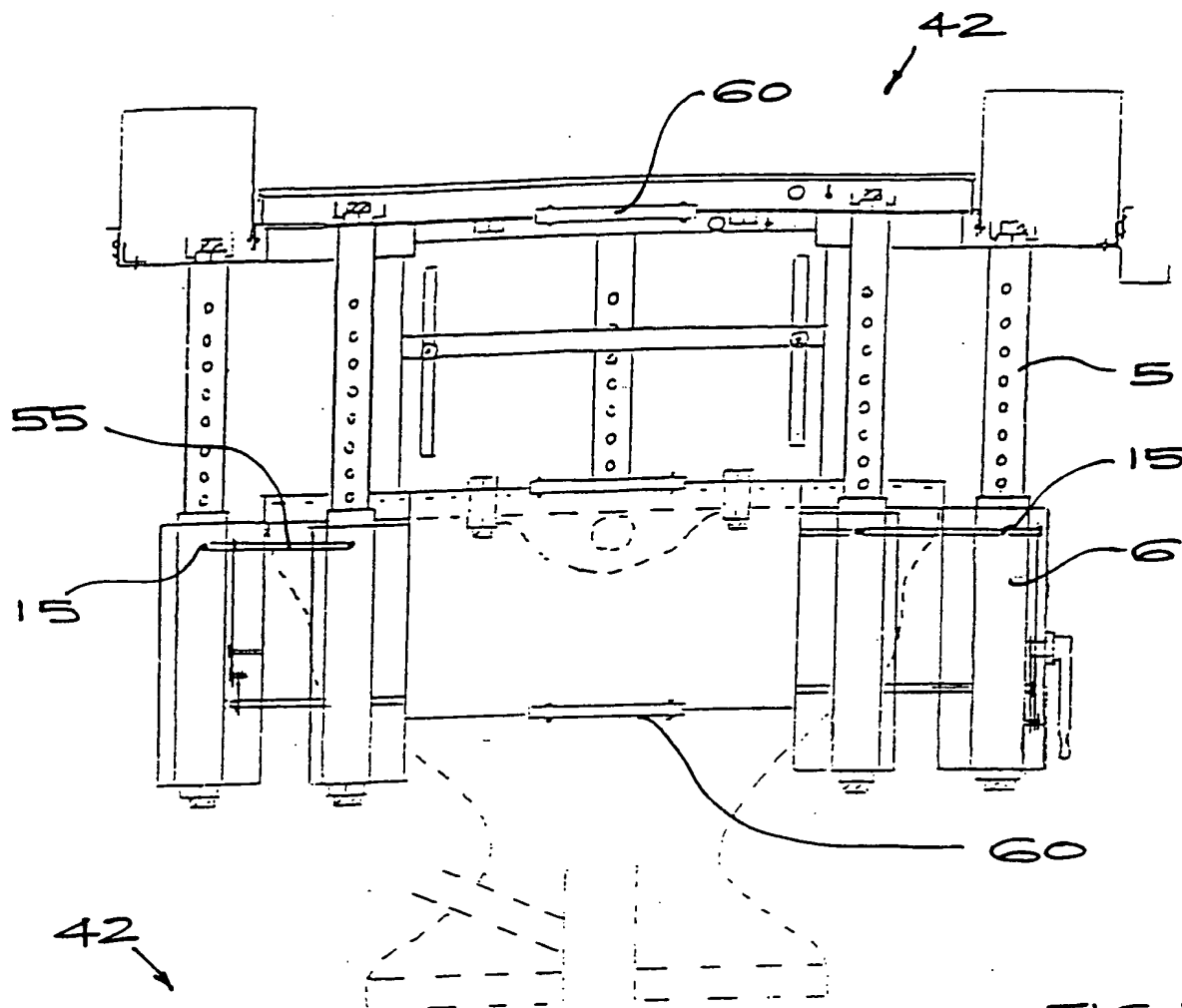


FIG.13

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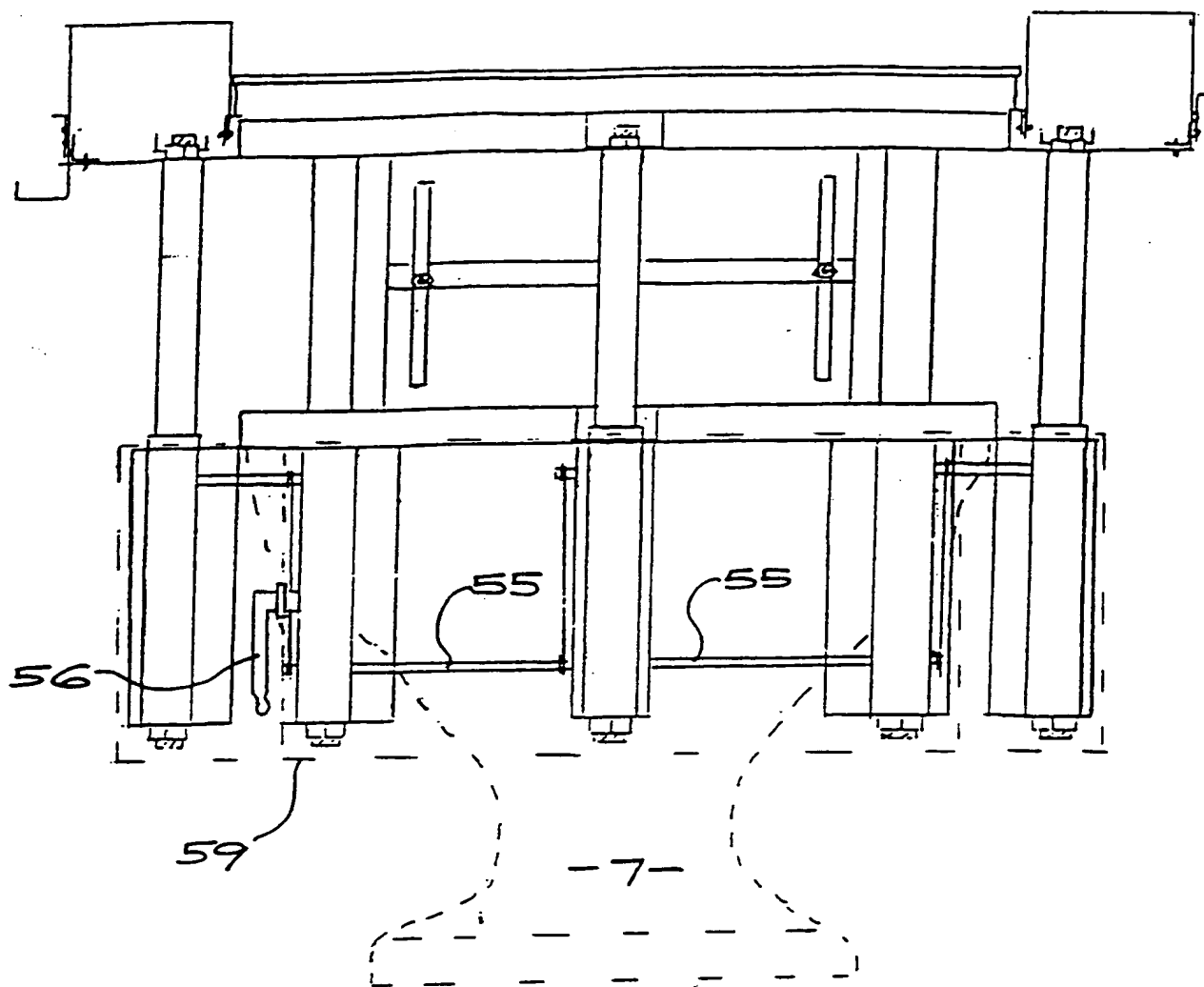


FIG. 16

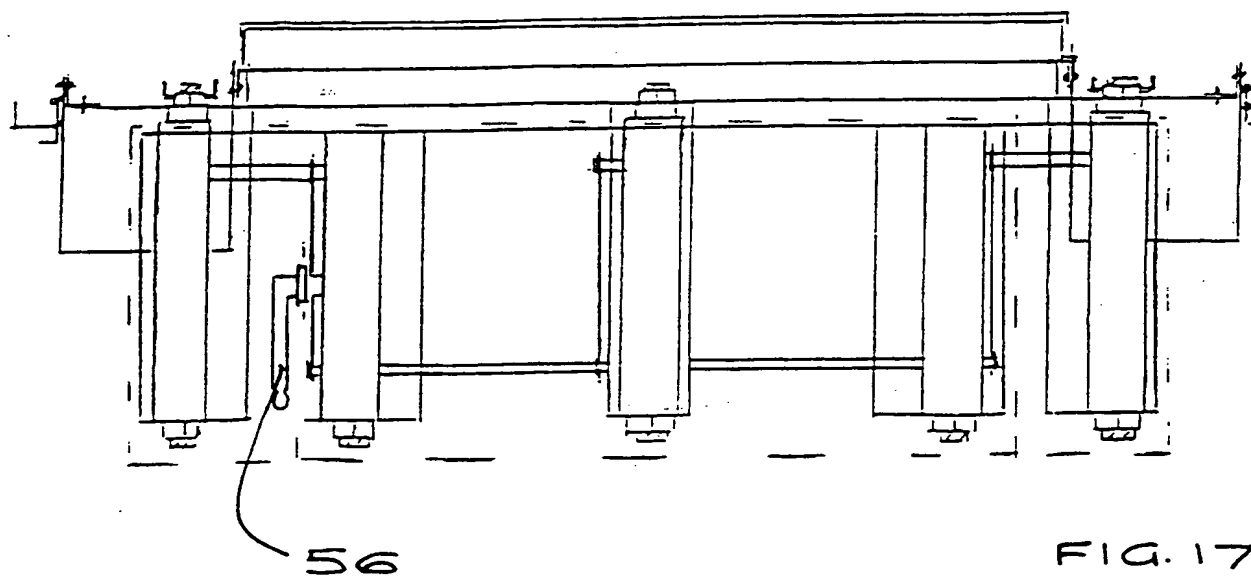
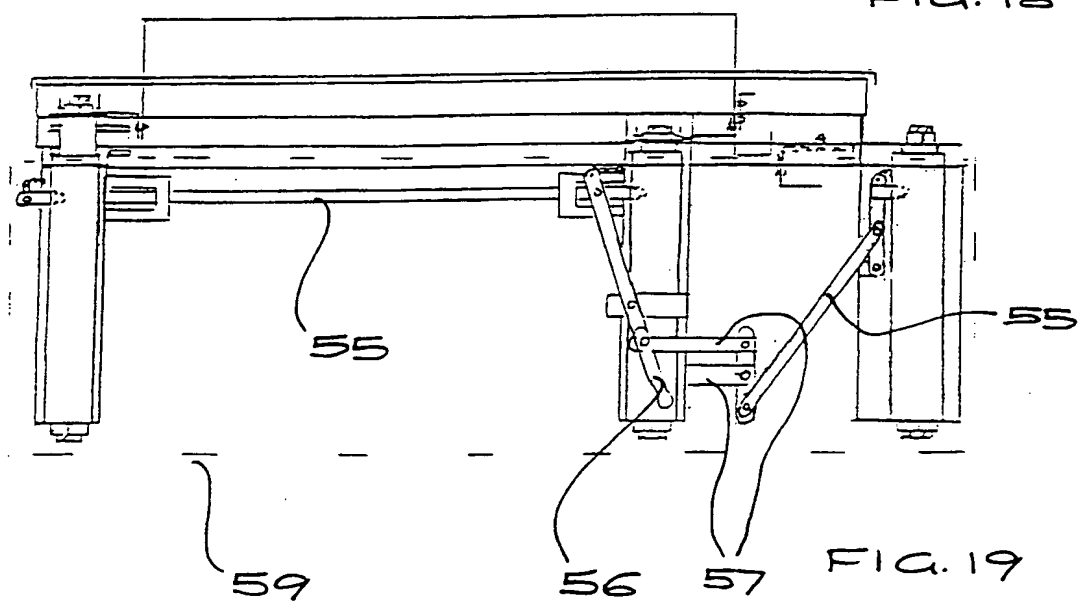
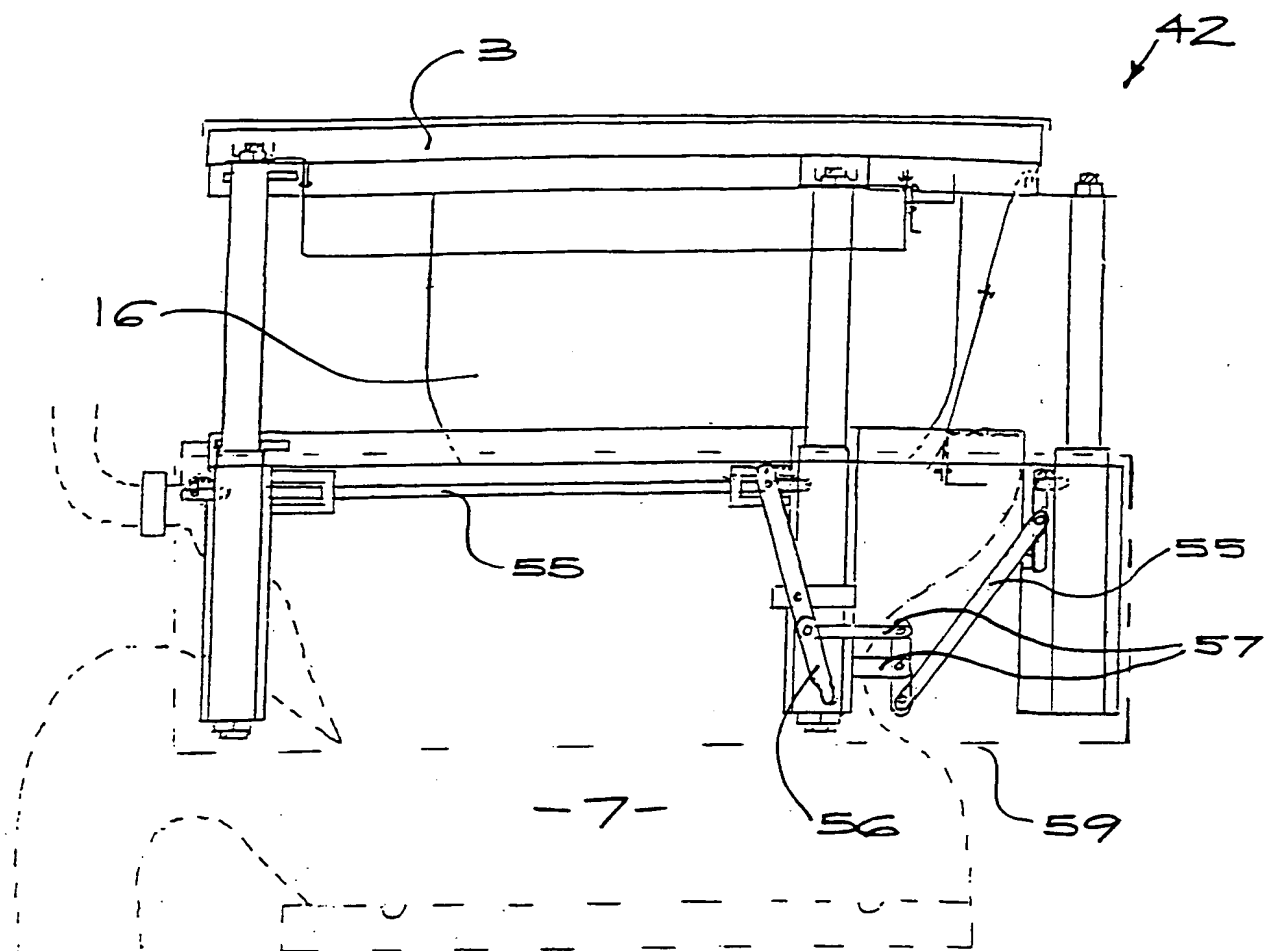
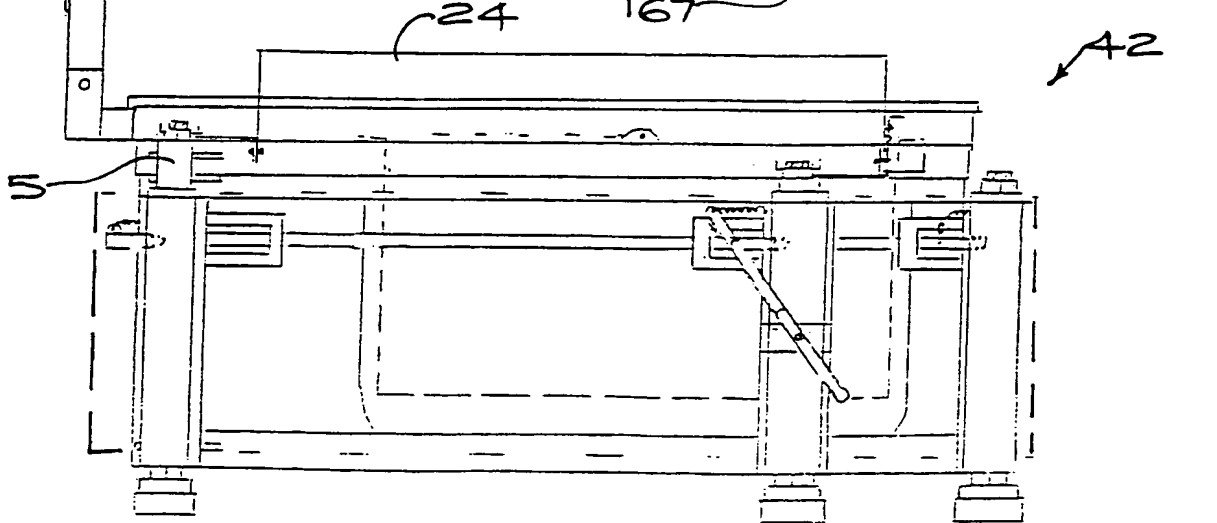
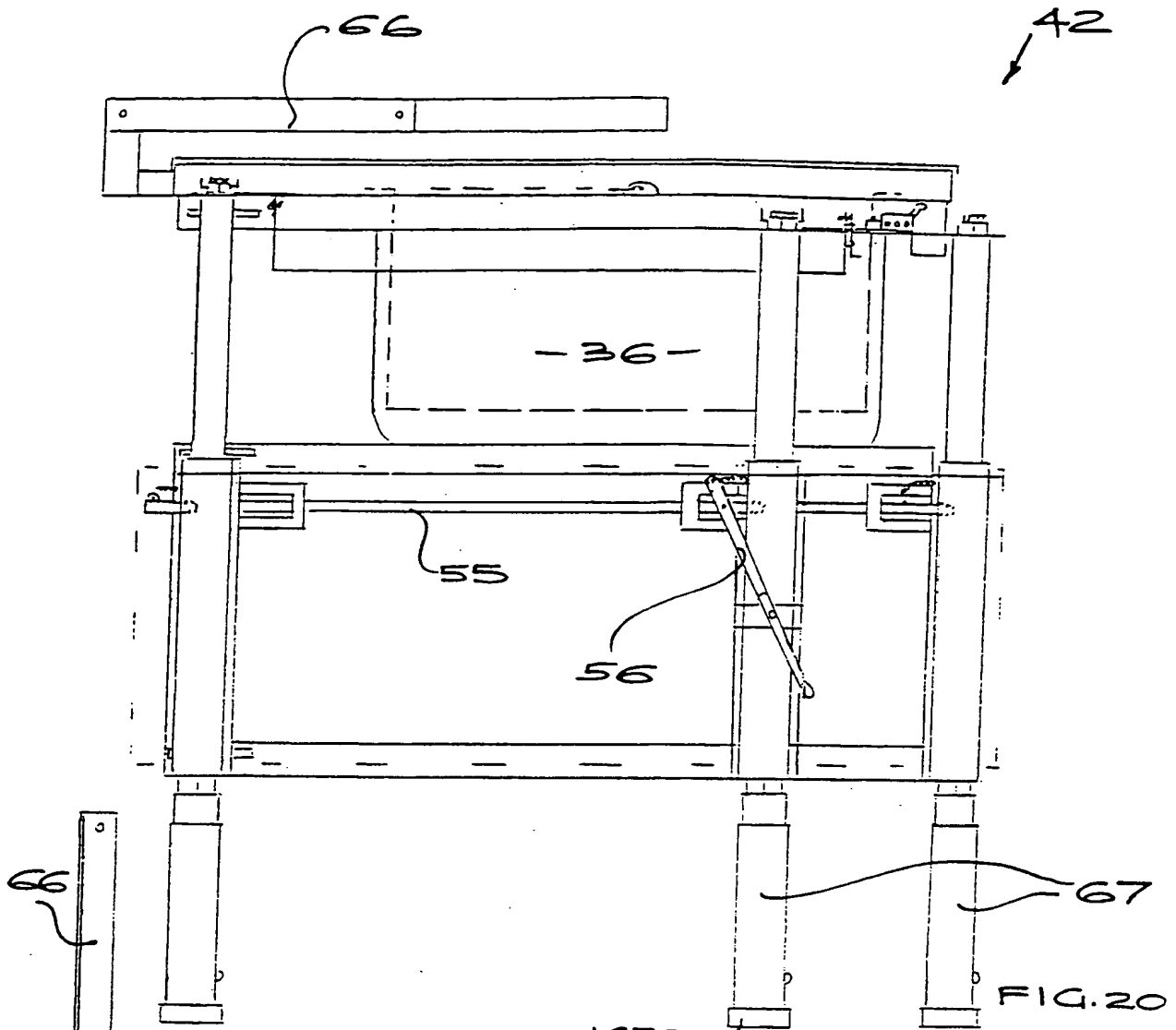


FIG. 17

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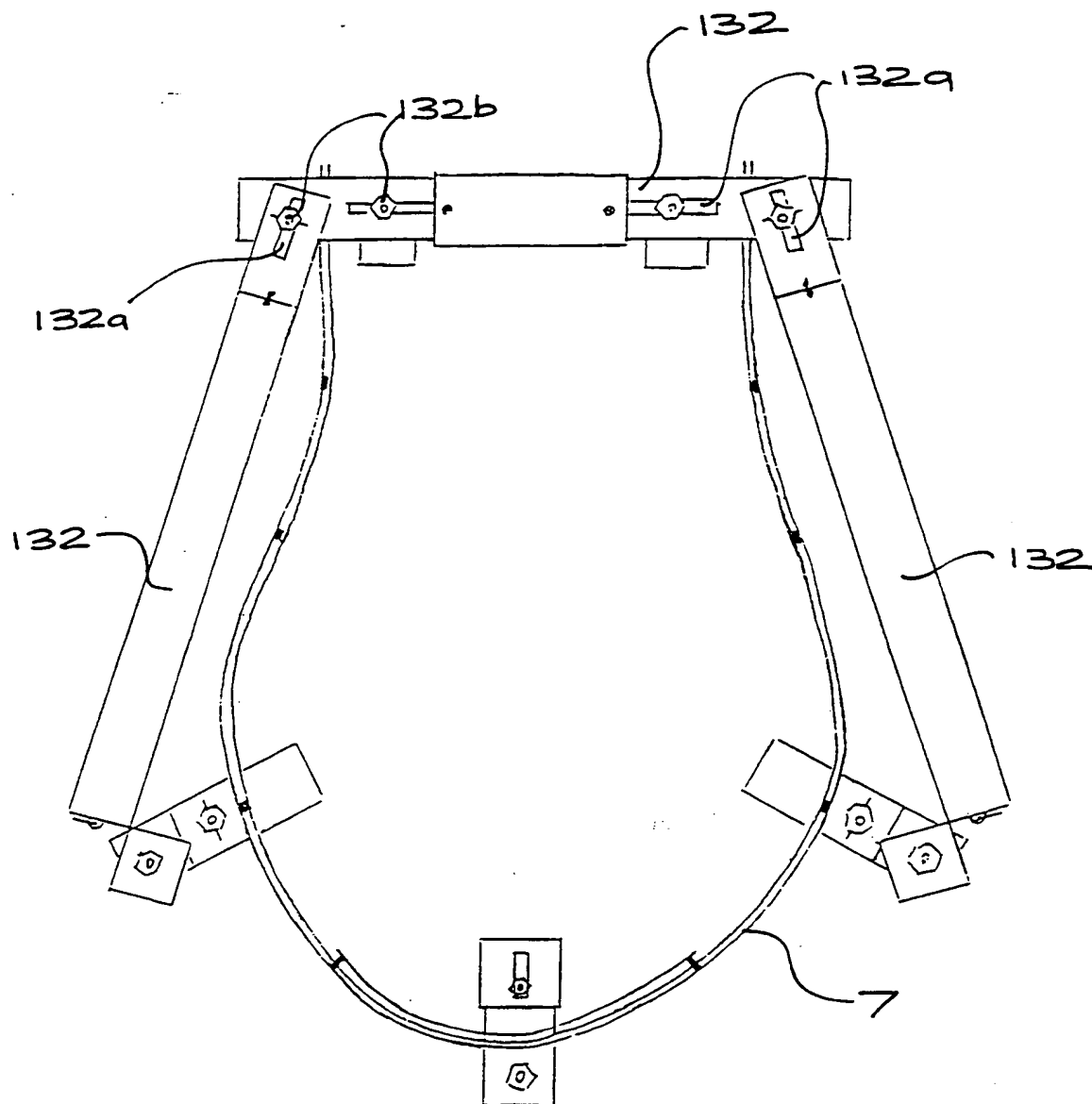


FIG. 22

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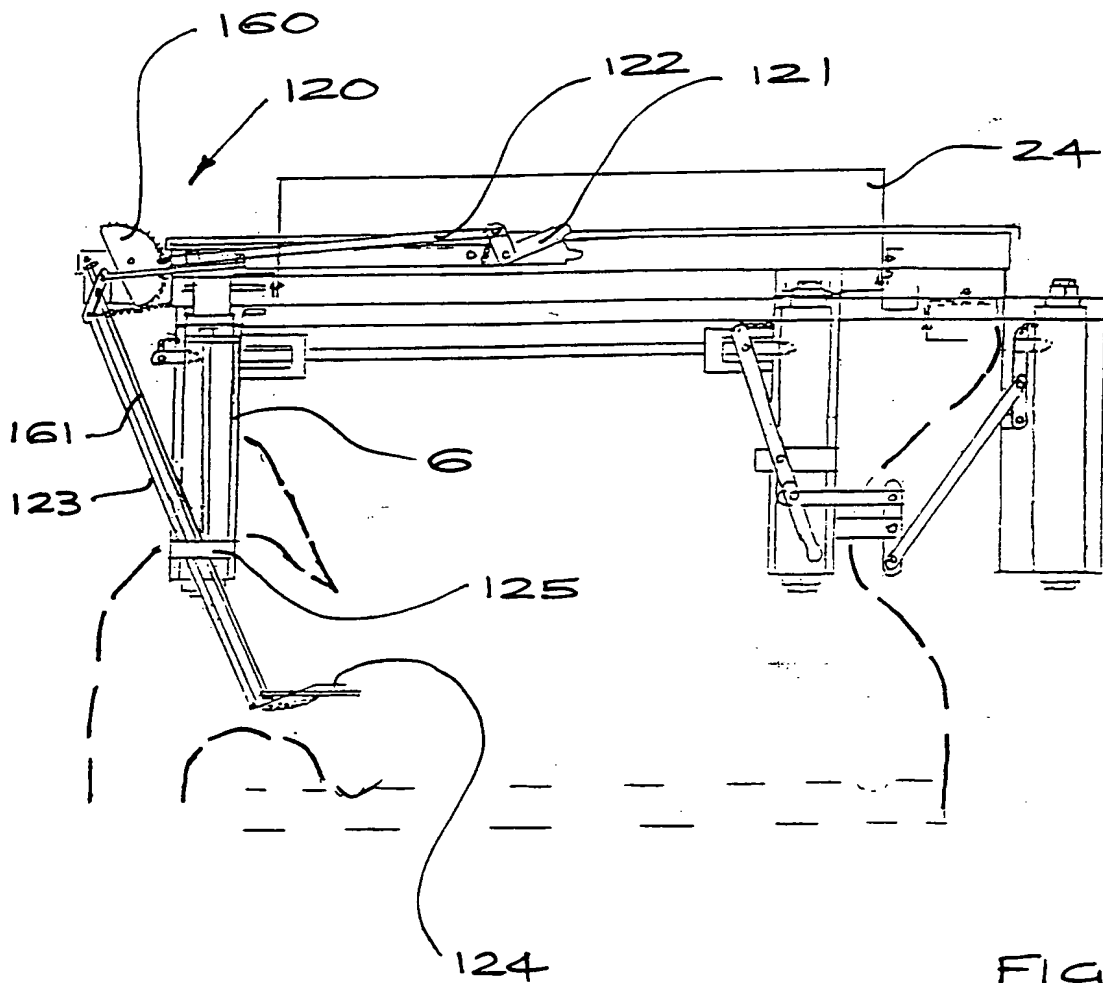


FIG. 23

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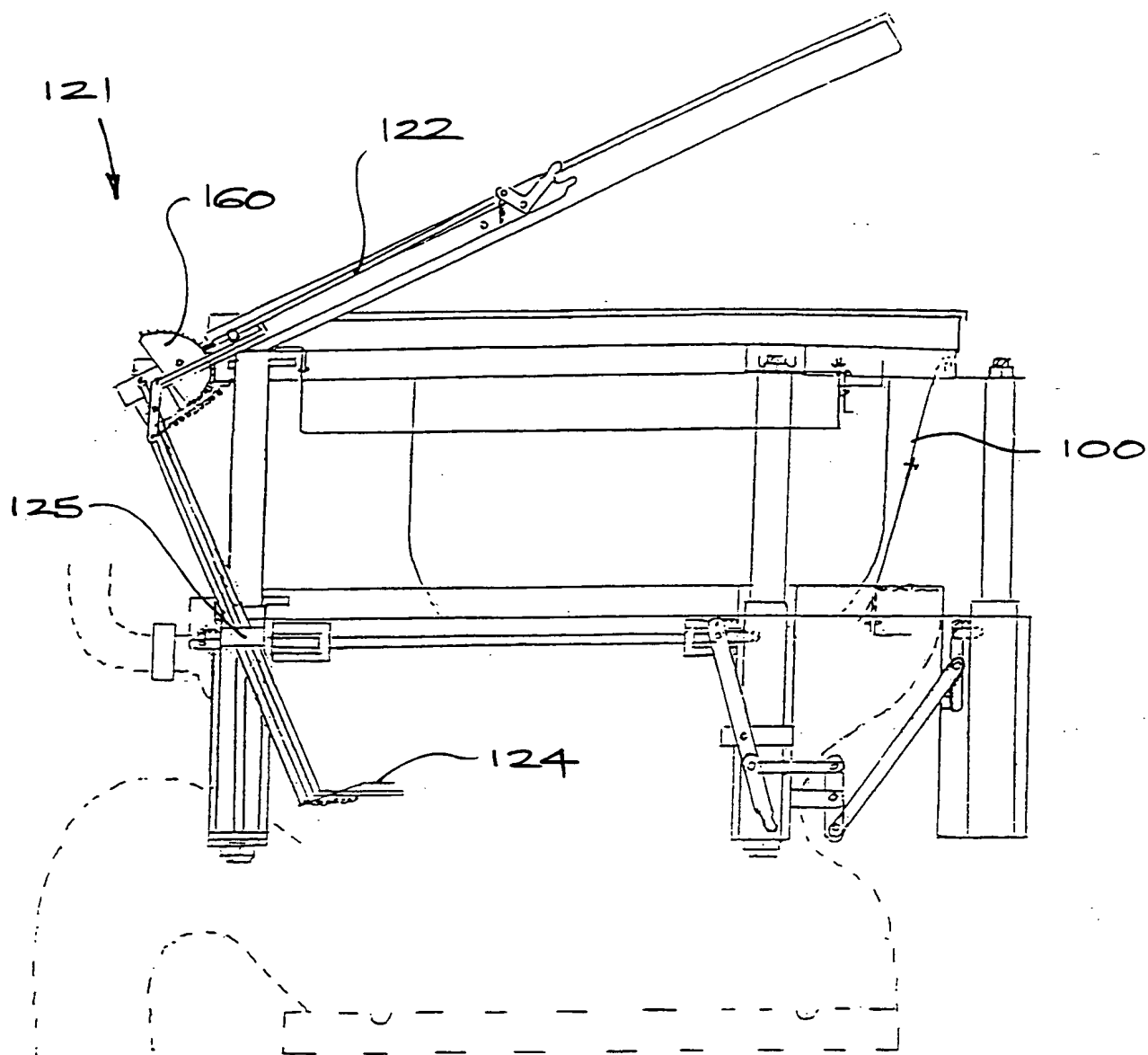


FIG. 24

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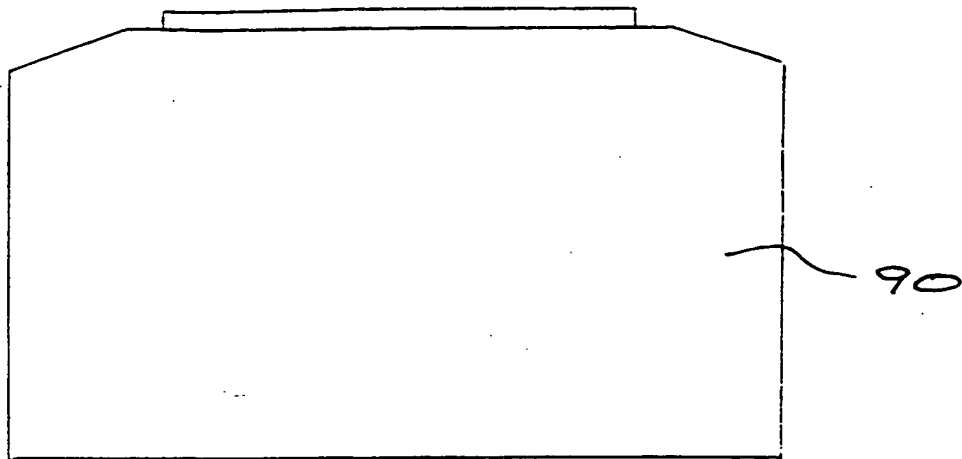


FIG. 25a

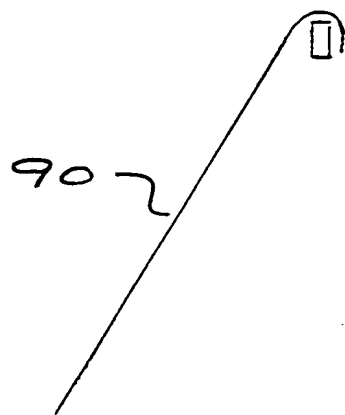


FIG. 25b

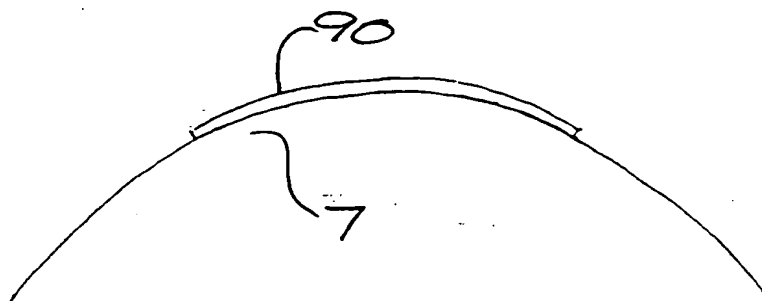


FIG. 25c

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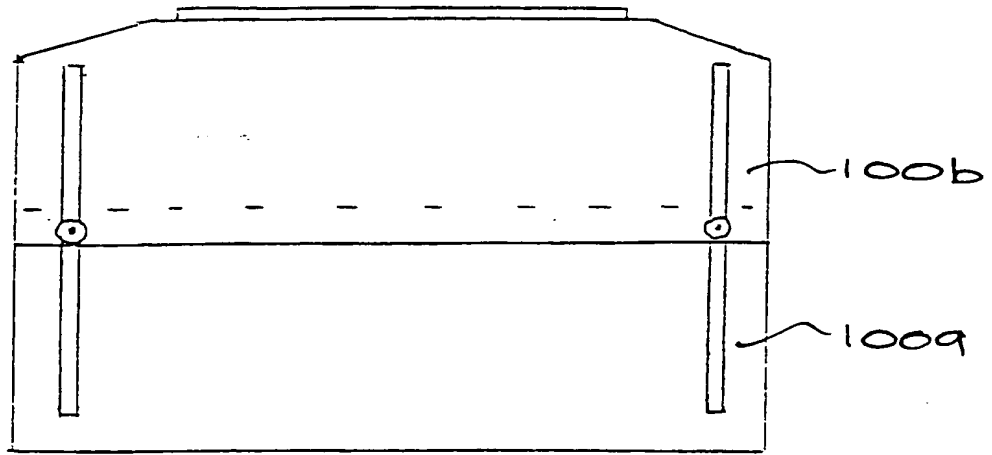


FIG. 26a

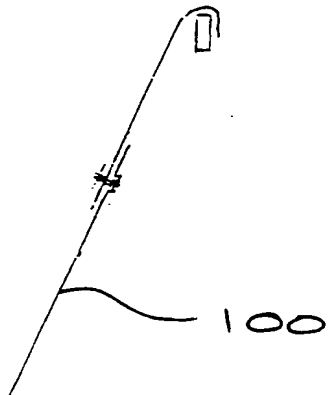


FIG. 26b

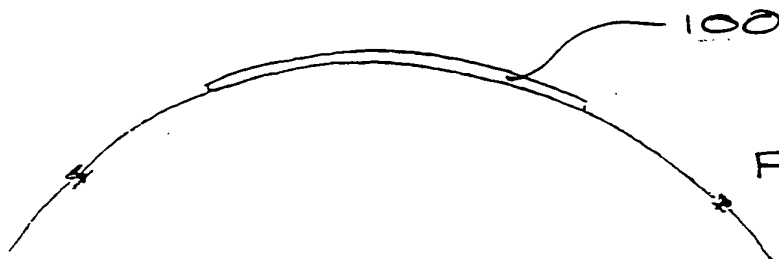
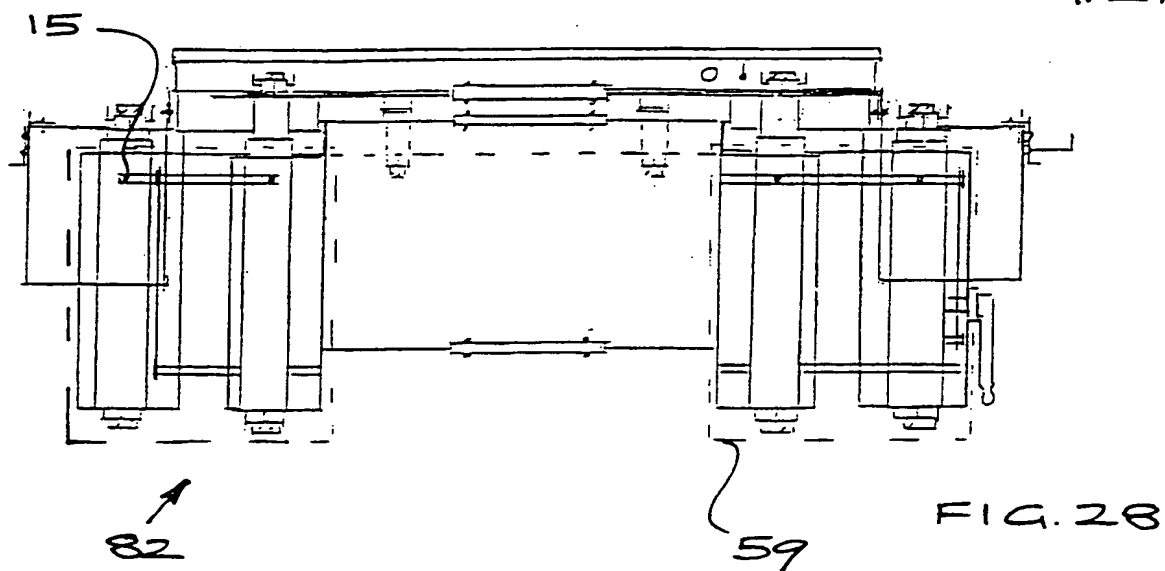
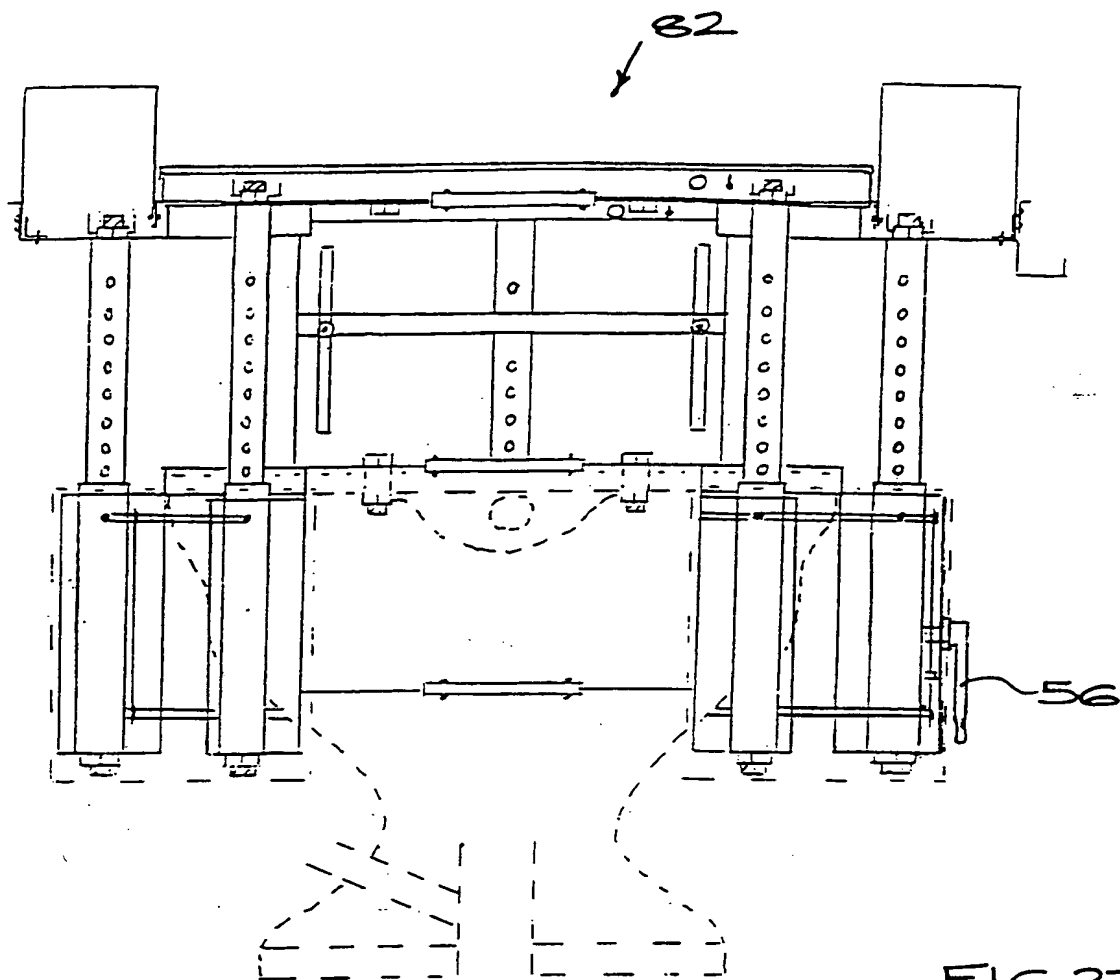
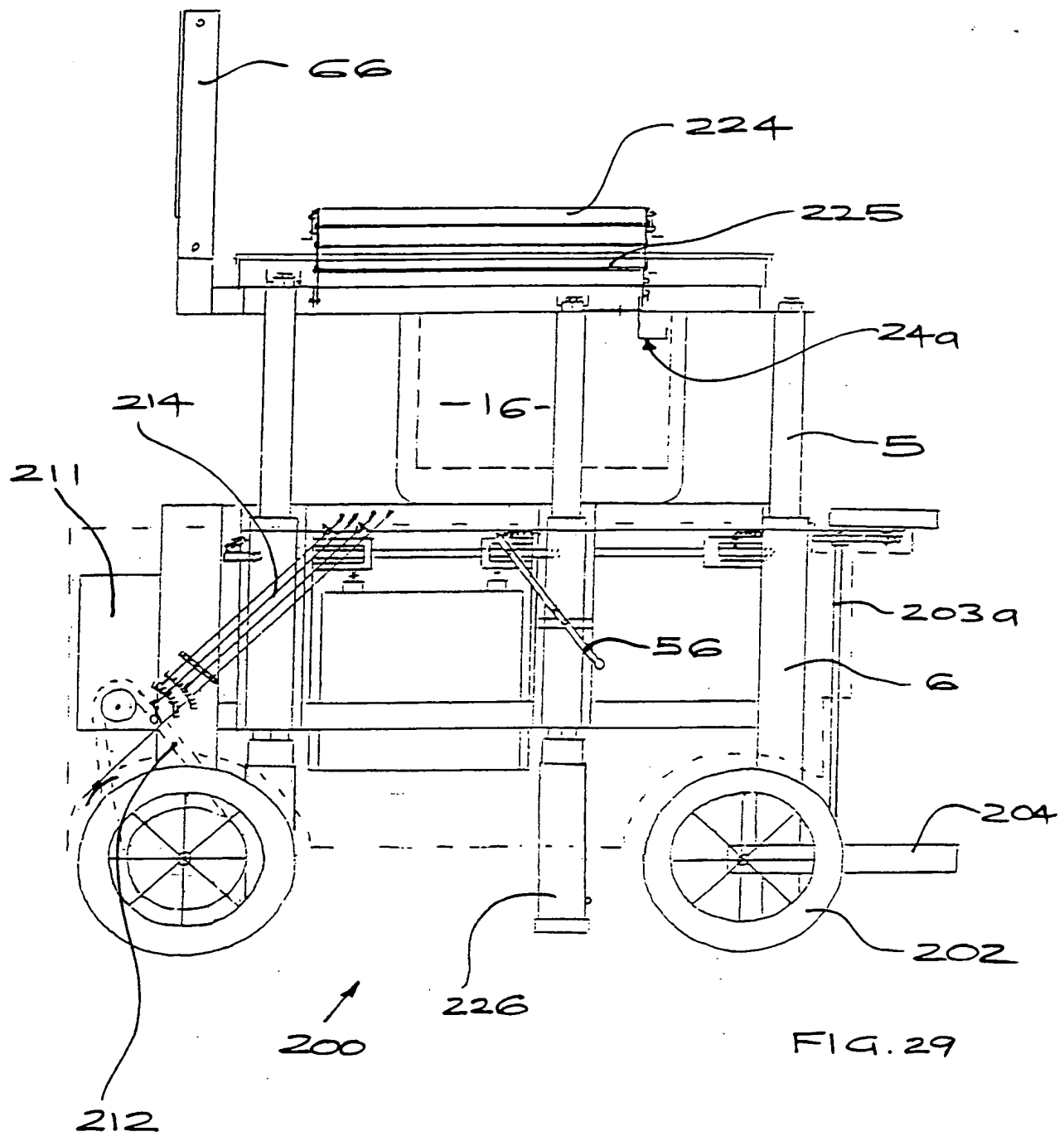


FIG. 26c

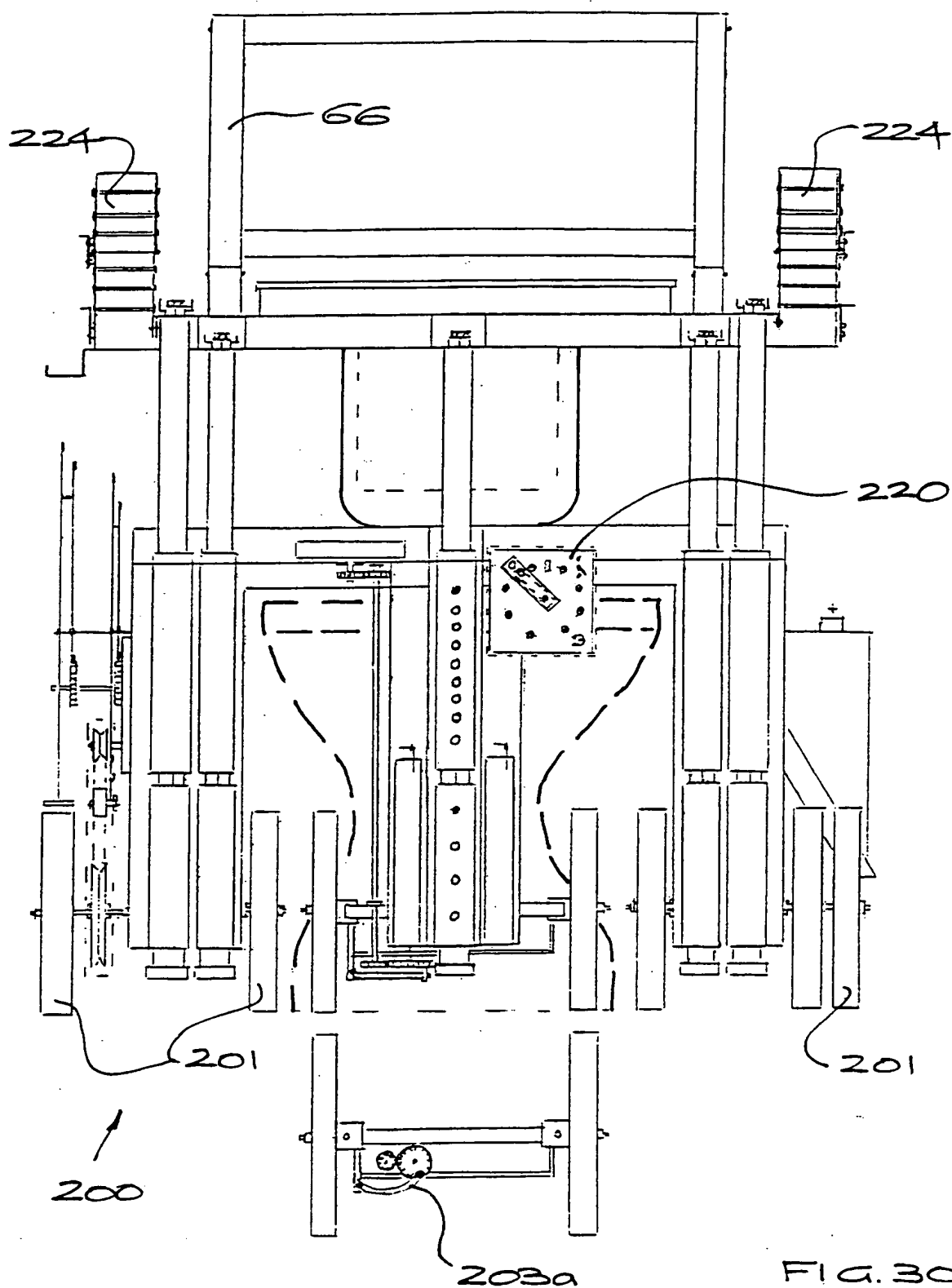
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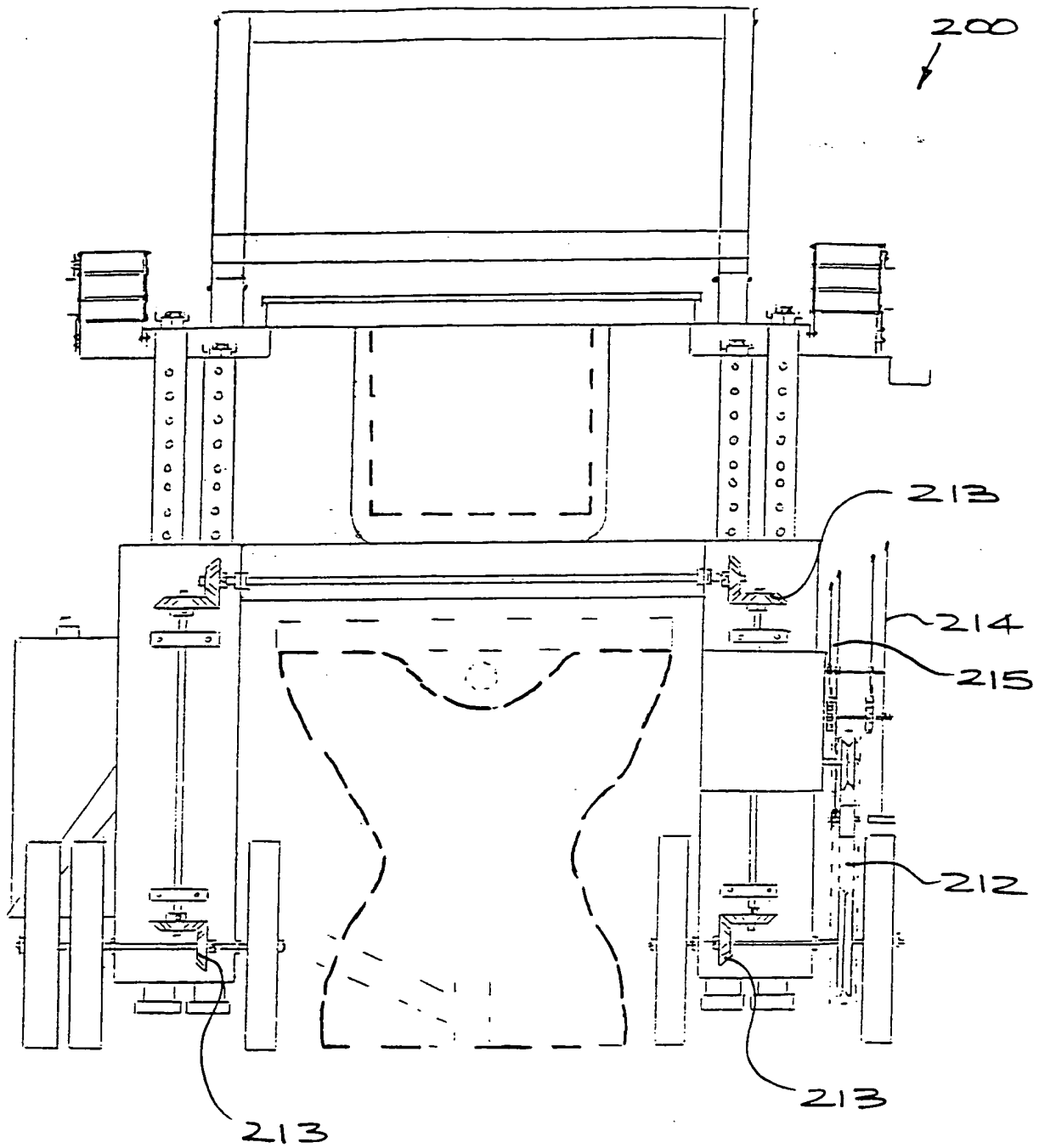


FIG. 3

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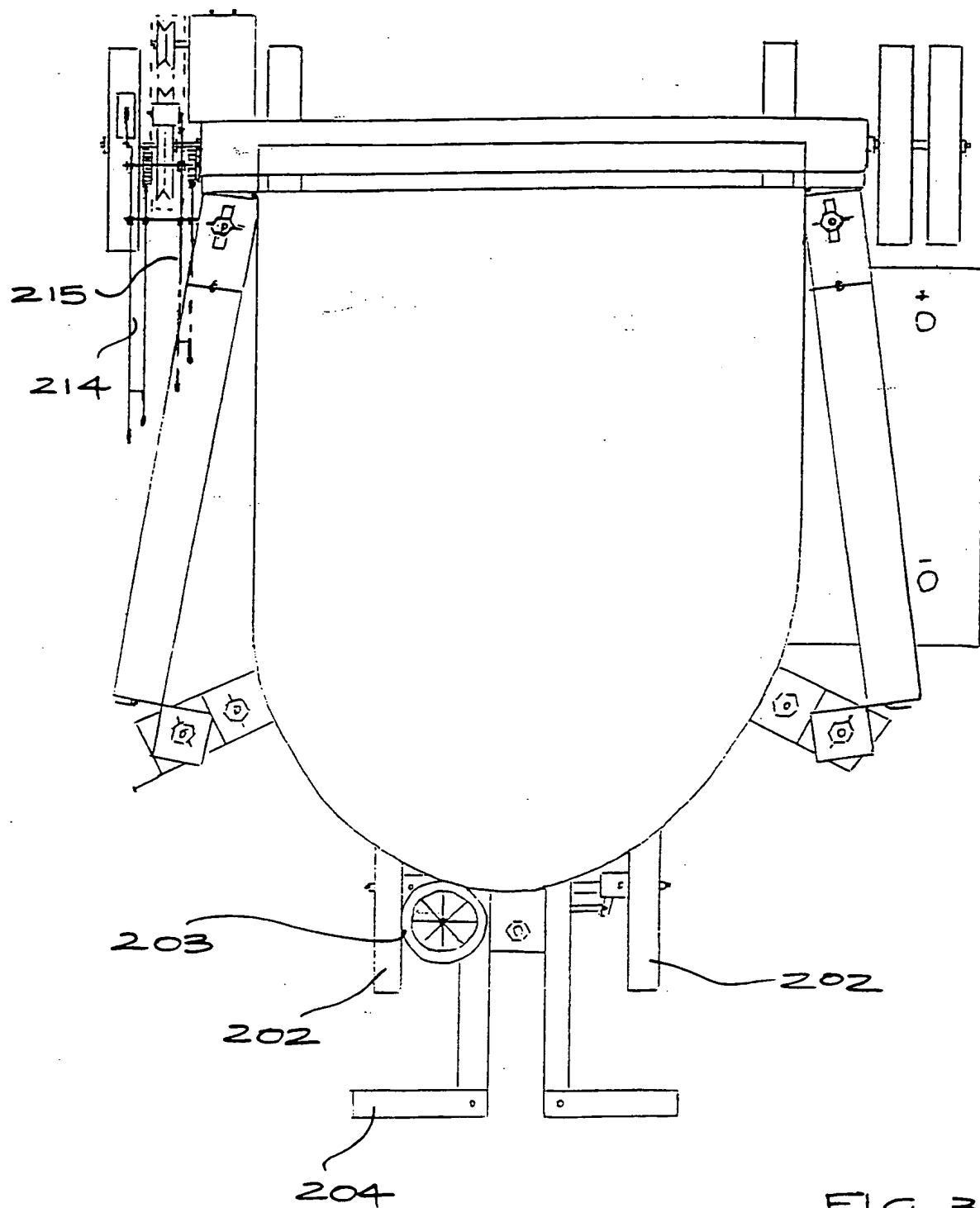
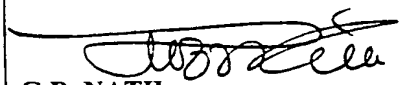


FIG. 32

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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.
PCT/NZ 00/00170

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER		
Int Cl ⁷ : A47K 13/10, 13/28 A61G 5/00, 5/04		
According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC		
B. FIELDS SEARCHED		
Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols) IPC: A47K 13/10, 13/28 A61G 5/00, 5/04		
Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched US class: 280/647		
Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practicable, search terms used) WPAT: IPC as above (A47K 13/10 or 13/28) +keywords (HEIGHT or RAISE or LOWER) WPAT: IPC as above (A61G 5/00 or 5/04) + keywords (TOILET) IFIPAT: US class 280/647		
C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT		
Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X Y	DE 4215448 A (ROMMEL), 19 November 1992 Figures, see in particular figs 1 & 2	1-21 11, 22-27
X Y	US 5063617 A (WARD et al), 12 November 1991 Figures	1-21 11, 22-27
X Y	US 5592703A (JONES et al), 14 January 1997 Figures	1-21 11, 22-27
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C <input type="checkbox"/> See patent family		
* Special categories of cited documents: "A" Document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance "E" earlier application or patent but published on or after the international filing date "L" document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified) "O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means "P" document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed "T" later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention "X" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone "Y" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art "&" document member of the same patent family		
Date of the actual completion of the international search 15 January 2001		Date of mailing of the international search report 1 February 2001
Name and mailing address of the ISA/AU AUSTRALIAN PATENT OFFICE PO BOX 200 WODEN ACT 2606 AUSTRALIA E-mail address: pct@ipaustalia.gov.au Facsimile No.: (02) 6285 3929		Authorized officer  G.B. NATH Telephone No.: (02) 6283 2126

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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

PCT/NZ 00/00170

C (Continuation). DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT		
Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X Y	Patent Abstracts of Japan, JP 09-084722A (TOTO LTD KOMURA SEISAKUSHO: KK) 31 March 1997 Abstract	1-21 11, 22-27
X Y	US 5309583 A (WHITE et al), 10 May 1994 Figures	1-21 11, 22-27
Y	Derwent Abstract Accession No 2000-017222/02, Class P33, JP11-290388A (MIKUNI KK), 26 October 1999 Abstract	22-27
P,Y	Derwent Abstract Accession NO 2000-057468/05 class P33; S05 JP 11-313857A (WAKO GIKEN KK), 16 November 1999 Abstract	22-27
P,Y	Derwent Abstract Accession No 2000-518915/47, Class P33; S05, JP 2000197668A (MATSUSHITA ELECTRIC WORKS LTD), 18 July 2000 Abstract	22-27
Y	Derwent Abstract Accession No 98-535257/46, Class P28 P33, JP 10234620A (SWAN SHOJI KK), 8 September 1998 Abstract	11

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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International Application No.

PCT/NZ 00/00170

Box I Observations where certain claims were found unsearchable (Continuation of item 2 of first sheet)

This international search report has not been established in respect of certain claims under Article 17(2)(a) for the following reasons:

1. ☐ Claims Nos.:
because they relate to subject matter not required to be searched by this Authority, namely:
2. ☐ Claims Nos.:
because they relate to parts of the international application that do not comply with the prescribed requirements to such an extent that no meaningful international search can be carried out, specifically:
3. ☐ Claims Nos.:
because they are dependent claims and are not drafted in accordance with the second and third sentences of Rule 6.4(a)

Box II Observations where unity of invention is lacking (Continuation of item 3 of first sheet)

This International Searching Authority found multiple inventions in this international application, as follows:
The international application does not comply with the requirements of unity of invention because it does not relate to one invention or to a group of inventions so linked as to form a single general inventive concept. In coming to this conclusion the International Searching Authority has found that there are two inventions:

1. Claim nos 1-21 are directed to a height adjustable toilet seat apparatus and define various features of the height adjusting means therein. It is considered that the features of the height adjusting means comprise a "first technical feature"
2. Claims 22-27 are directed to a wheeled chair which includes (but not limited to) a height adjustable toilet seat apparatus as claimed in any of the claims 1-21 and define various features of the wheeled chair. These features of the wheeled chair is considered to comprise a "second technical feature".

Since the above mentioned group of claims do not share a common technical feature a "technical relationship" between the inventions as defined in PCT rule 13.2 does not exist. Accordingly the international application does not relate to one invention or to a single inventive concept

1. ☒ As all required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this international search report covers all searchable claims
2. ☐ As all searchable claims could be searched without effort justifying an additional fee, this Authority did not invite payment of any additional fee.
3. ☐ As only some of the required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this international search report covers only those claims for which fees were paid, specifically claims Nos.:
4. ☐ No required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant. Consequently, this international search report is restricted to the invention first mentioned in the claims; it is covered by claims Nos.:

Remark on Protest ☐ The additional search fees were accompanied by the applicant's protest.
☐ No protest accompanied the payment of additional search fees.

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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Information on patent family members

International application No.

PCT/NZ 00/00170

This Annex lists the known "A" publication level patent family members relating to the patent documents cited in the above-mentioned international search report. The Australian Patent Office is in no way liable for these particulars which are merely given for the purpose of information.

Patent Document Cited in Search Report	Patent Family Member
NONE	
END OF ANNEX	

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